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Welcome



7

These candlesticks are on my Christmas present wish list

There are Christmas adverts on the TV and the shops are full of festive cheer – it might still be a number of weeks away, but Christmas fever has well and truly taken hold. For those of you who aren't quite ready to embrace the season of goodwill, fear not. Our December issue offers just the merest hint of Christmas, such as ways to prepare your home now in advance of the big day (page 77) – with ideas to spruce up the guest room, festive tableware and ways to give key areas a quick facelift.

We've also got our usual mix of shopping ideas, real homes and decorating inspiration, plus a look at ways to give your front door a smart new look, and tips to consider before renovating a listed building.

And do look out for our special Christmas issue, on sale 20 November, which will be packed full of everything you need to decorate your home and celebrate the festive season in style.

ZOE BALDING, **EDITOR**



7



11



12



77

EDITOR'S PHOTOGRAPH KRYSTYNA PERCZYK

GET IN TOUCH

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Be in with a chance of winning the prize draws featured in the magazine each month by visiting www.periodhomesandinteriors.com/competitions.

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The British Museum



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The Battersea shield. Iron Age, c. 350–50 BC. Found in the River Thames, London, England.

IN THE NEWS

Our round-up of design buys, favourite home products and new-season trends



DO THE TWIST

Vintiqa.com is a new online platform to buy, sell and fall in love with vintage, antique and unique furniture. Our favourite find is this Victorian cast-iron mangle, £535, which has been upcycled into solid oak shelving.



Candlesticks from Spencer Swaffer Antiques, £975

Online antiques

Source authentic art and antiques online at www.lapada.org, which brings together pieces from a range of specialisations, including decorative arts, textiles, clocks and silver.

SQUARE DEAL

Perfect for providing additional seating this Christmas, or even for positioning next to the sofa to rest a plate of mince pies on, we love this versatile cube, £190, from Emily Bond, featuring her trademark Rabbits & Hares fabric. 0117 376 3067, www.emilybond.co.uk.



PURE JEAN-IUS

Update your walls with denim-patterned wallpaper and murals from Galerie. Team with rustic furniture to enhance the timeless feel, while statement lighting and industrial accessories will add an on-trend touch. Prices from £179.95 for a Denim collection mural measuring 280 (h) x 186cm (w). www.galeriehome.co.uk.





Light fantastic

Good lighting is a winter essential, and pendant lights are the perfect mood setter. We love the trend for hanging them low over bedside tables to provide an atmospheric glow. Byron pendant in white, £40; and Charlotte headboard in Otter, from £350; both Neptune. 01793 427300, www.neptune.com.

If you want a new sofa in time for Christmas, check out www.sofahunter.com. The comparison site lists more than 22,000 sofas from 22 brands, and enables you to filter your search based on style, colour, price, availability or size.

Style on a budget

A new kitchen doesn't have to cost the earth. This Shaker oak design from Betta Living comes with a curved door option usually only seen in top-end designs, yet a complete kitchen costs from just £5,186. www.bettaliving.co.uk.



SHINING BRIGHT

You might not be able to do anything about the grey weather outside, but brighten up a dark corner inside with the fabulous Scandi design influences of this Retro floral lampshade, £75, from Hunkydory Home. www.hunkydoryhome.co.uk.



See this chair in the new Bond film, Spectre



Solid oak carver in 17th-century style, £930, Tudor Oak.

BE SEATED

Whether your tastes are traditional or veer towards the more contemporary, these chairs are design classics in the making.



Flow chair in beech by Tomoko Azumi for Ercol, £495, Heal's (www.heals.com).

Don't miss the Ideal Home Show at Christmas at EventCity in Manchester from 12-15 November and Olympia, London from 25-29 November, offering Christmas-themed exhibitors, from food and drink to gifts and shopping.

Date for your diary



BLIND FAITH

It's no surprise that Christmas is one of the busiest times for burglars. With presents sitting under the tree and the home remaining unoccupied, keep prying eyes out with blinds from QMotion UK, which can be cleverly controlled remotely by a smart app on Android and iOS devices. Prices from £567.95. www.qmotionshades.co.uk.



Floral palette

Cosy up your living room with a patterned hand-tufted rug from Bluebellgray. This Braybrooke Linen design features signature oversized blooms in a fresh palette on a neutral background and costs £549 for a rug measuring 170 (w) x 240cm (d). www.bluebellgray.com.



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Hanging around

Fix one of these stylish stockings to the mantelpiece on Christmas Eve ready for Santa to fill with small gifts

For more festive ideas, don't miss the CHRISTMAS ISSUE of PH&I on sale 20 November

Red stocking with white snowflakes, Christmas trees and reindeer, £15, Ragged Rose.



Knitted stocking in beige and green, £65, Lexington Company.



Marl grey wool felt stocking with red check lining, £26.95, Annabel James.



Red and white stockings, £1 each; decorations from a selection; all Tesco.



This beautiful stocking is hand-sewn by a social enterprise in Bangladesh



Handmade Kantha stocking in vintage sari fabric, from a selection, Decorator's Notebook.

For stockists turn to page 113

Woolly Christmas stocking with holly design, £20, The Contemporary Home.



Felt pom-pom stocking, £25, John Lewis.



Vintage Deer screen-printed stocking, also available in a stripe design, £17.95, Clare Loves.



Robin & Mistletoe stocking, £14, Sophie Allport.



Feeling *blue*

The shops are awash with rich inky-blue hues this winter, and it's a colour that will suit any traditional interior



Pipevine silk cushion in midnight indigo pewter, £55, Clarissa Hulse.

Blue Paisley side plate, from £15, Aimee St Hill at Art Rookie.





Textured Paisley ultramarine double duvet cover; £120; Oxford pillowcases, £40 per pair; Christy.

Blue Print No50 Marble Matt Emulsion, £20 for 1 ltr, Mylands.



Fairbanks grand sofa in Vintage Linen Plum, available in three sizes, 217 (w) x 89 (h) x 106cm (d), from £3,199, John Sankey.



Tom Dixon glass and copper ice bucket, 36 (h) x 21cm (dia), £200, Amara.

This generous-sized design features 170 hand-sewn upholstered buttons



Van Deusen Blue (HC-156), Natura® Flat paint, £20 for 0.94 ltrs, Benjamin Moore.

Le Creuset salt and pepper mills in Ink, £25 each, exclusive to John Lewis.



For stockists turn to page 113



Caracas Edwardian-style library chair upholstered in velvet with brass legs, from £2,950, Jonathan Adler.

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You can create your own free moodboards/ inspiration boards online to capture ideas and build your overall look for projects. Choose wallpapers and fabrics, trimmings and paint colours, before adding accessories to tie your board together. You can save your inspiration boards and update them as your project progresses.









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Sari, woven silk, Bangalore, ca. 1867 © Victoria and Albert Museum, London

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FEATURE EMMA CLAYTON

THE LOOK

Decadent designs

Go for a glamorous hotel-style look in the bedroom with coloured walls, statement furniture and indulgent details



Page 15 Create a quirky display with a mix of unusual accessories. Gold-coloured pineapple, £12; nine-drawer chest with gold-effect handles, £16; seven-drawer storage chest, £26; hexagonal floral storage box, £8; gold-effect birdcage, £26; all Sainsbury's. **Right A strong wall colour will create a warm, decadent look.** Bleecker emulsion paint, £33 for 2.5 ltrs, Abigail Ahern.



Left Silky patterned fabrics are an ideal choice for furnishings. Curtain and cushions in Spectrum collection fabrics, from £20.99 per m, Prestigious Textiles.
Opposite page Make your bed a focal point with layers of decorative bedding. Safia bedding, from £25 for two pillowcases; black glass glitter flecked table lamp, £80; glass flecked votive, £20; black glitter flecked vase, £38; cushions, from £25; faux-fur throw, £90; all from the Star by Julien Macdonald collection; Chesterfield double bed frame, £965; Chesterfield bench, £620; all Debenhams.



'These dramatic hues are ideal for creating a sumptuous scheme – dress a buttoned bedstead with flamboyant linens, tactile throws and embellished cushions in a palette of rich plum shades'



'Create an enticing look in the living room with an assortment of shimmering velvet soft furnishings. Complete the scheme with patterned wallpaper, classic buttoned upholstery and sleek metallic furniture'

THE LOOK

Precious metals

Add glamour with an array of dazzling designs – luxurious fabrics, statement wallpapers and reflective finishes



Left Go for dramatic walls with this bold print in black and gold. Artisan Quill Gold wallpaper, £20 per roll, Graham & Brown.
Below Sheer curtains will bring texture and interest to windows. Curtains in Yelena Ink V3172/06 (left), £72 per m; and Zagora Plain Cinder 2005/14 (right), £36 per m; both from the Xander collection at Villa Nova.

Opposite page Balance deep charcoal tones with touches of soft oyster and gold. Odisha wallpaper 111253, £52 per roll; curtains in Odisha 131609, £84 per m; sofa in Regina 131604, £76 per m; cushions in a selection of fabrics from Belvedere Velvets; all from the Palmetto & Belvedere Velvets collections at Harlequin.



For stockists turn to page 113

THE LOOK

Luxe living

Impress your guests with beautiful spaces designed for entertaining, packed full of glamorous touches and lavish details



Right A cut velvet chevron lends a striking look to upholstery. Belem wallpaper NCW4201-01, £59 per roll; sofa in Bargello NCF4210-02, £125 per m; both Nina Campbell at Osborne & Little.
Opposite page Ideal for storage and display, this piece is both practical and stylish. Turner vitrine with cabinet, £3,990; Chippendale chairs, £695 each; Drip wallpaper in gold and white, £300 per roll; accessories, from a selection; all Jonathan Adler.



Left For a sumptuous dining space, team plush velvet seating with a sleek metallic table. Caspian Atlantic dining table and set of six Melia dining chairs, £2,995; Caspian Delices console, £1,335; mercury sphere table lamps, £179 each; gold coral cage vases, from £149 each; all Barker and Stonehouse.

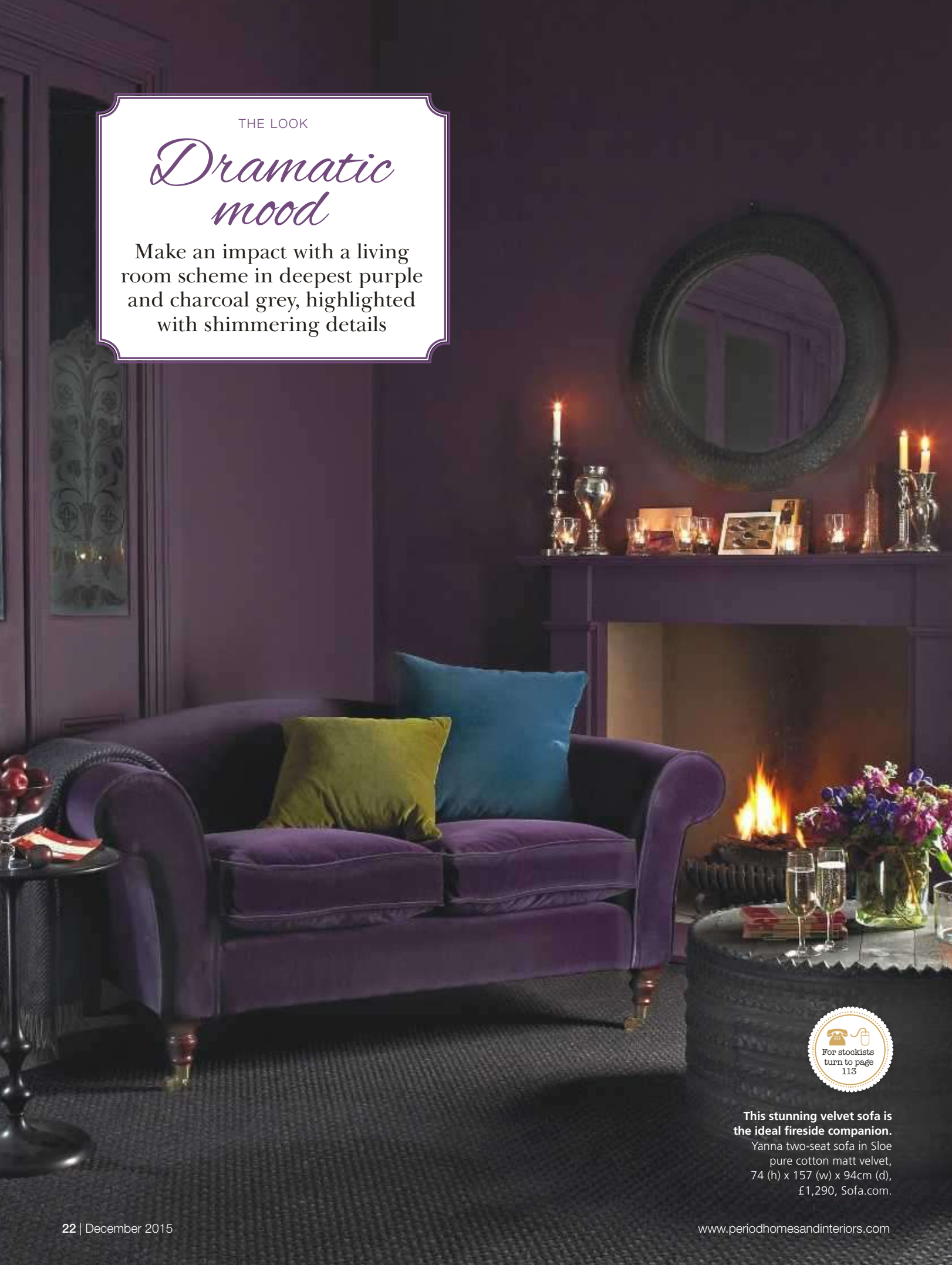


'This look is all about glamour and decadence, so ensure you choose furniture that makes a style statement – a chic black and gold cabinet stands out brilliantly against bright white and gold'

THE LOOK

Dramatic mood

Make an impact with a living room scheme in deepest purple and charcoal grey, highlighted with shimmering details



For stockists turn to page 113

This stunning velvet sofa is the ideal fireside companion. Yanna two-seat sofa in Sloe pure cotton matt velvet, 74 (h) x 157 (w) x 94cm (d), £1,290, Sofa.com.

Fine*finishes*

Introduce a decadent look to your home this winter with our selection of beautiful buys





Right Allegri buttoned cube in Avorez Mirage, 47cm (dia), £907, The Sofa & Chair Company. **Far right** Kudu aluminium and glass side table, 53cm (dia), £99, Atkin and Thyme.

For stockists turn to page 113



'Glamour is back this season, so keep a look out for luxurious fabrics, dramatic hues, metallic finishes and eye-catching accessories'

Emma Clayton, *Period Homes & Interiors* decorating expert





Right Gold sequin cushion cover, 40 (d) x 40cm (w), £9.99, H&M Home. **Below** Chesterfield chaise with solid hardwood frame, from £1,590, Delcor.





Right Sunburst mirror, 91.5cm (dia), £199, Marks & Spencer. **Below** Zeus pineapple lamp, £80, House of Fraser.







Far left Pamplona Purple 3 paint mixing matt emulsion, £24.49 for 2.5 ltrs, Dulux. **Right** Oval Hoola vase in purple, £52, Zaliwana Accessories.

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GET THE LOOK



Our shopping expert recreates one of the rooms in each of our real homes with carefully selected furniture and finishing touches

REAL HOMES

28 pages of winter homes, from a grand Georgian farmhouse to a festive country cottage



GARDENING

Public gardens perfect for winter walking plus suggestions to add colour in your own garden





Leo designed new kitchen units using classic recessed panelled doors, which were made by Kevin Anderson Designs (01786 880489, www.kennethandersondesigns.co.uk) and painted in Dulux Gooseberry Fool (0333 222 7171, www.dulux.co.uk).

DESIGN FOR LIFE

When furniture designer Leo Vaughan Williams and his family moved into their Georgian home he wasted no time customising the rooms with top-quality bespoke designs tailored to their lifestyle

FEATURE AMANDA HARLING **PHOTOGRAPHY** ANDREAS VON EINSIEDEL



Get the look p33

'We loved the vaulted ceiling that gives the kitchen a barn-like feeling, and with windows on three sides it's the lightest room in the house'

It was the birth of twins Grace and Archie that first sowed the seeds for a move to the country for London couple Leo Vaughan Williams, a furniture designer, and his wife Sarah, who runs her own PR company. 'We wanted to be sure we liked country life, so as we had friends in Dorset we initially rented a house near them while we got to know the area better,' recalls Sarah. After nearly a year of exploring various parts of the West Country, Leo eventually found the ideal house on the Prime Location website. Situated on the edge of a hamlet in rural Wiltshire and dating from the early 1800s, the unpretentious but beautifully proportioned late-Georgian farmhouse was indeed in a prime location, as far as Leo and Sarah were concerned. 'Although it feels quite remote and we overlook nothing but fields, we're only 15 minutes from the M4, which is ideal for Leo as he's out visiting clients several times a week. And we're close enough to the nearest town to make shopping and the school run viable,' explains Sarah.

The previous owners had already added the large kitchen extension to one side of the house, >>

Key facts



THE OWNERS Leo Vaughan Williams and Sarah Bowen live in the house with twins Grace and Archie. **THE PROPERTY** A beautifully proportioned Georgian farmhouse on the edge of a hamlet in rural Wilshire, dating back to the 1800s. **PURCHASED** 2009. **IMPROVEMENTS MADE** Leo redesigned the large kitchen in the extension to suit the family's lifestyle. Walls in the living room were plastered using a specialist marmorino highly polished finish and the house were decorated throughout to inject colour and pattern into the rooms.

Style advice

Get the look of Leo and Sarah's walls with Designers Guild Marmorino wallpaper, available in six colours, £79 per roll, from www.johnlewis.com.





Above from top The house enjoys a rural location overlooking fields. The kitchen is the heart of the home for Sarah and twins Grace and Archie. The light, bright look is accentuated with walls finished in pale pink marmorino polished plaster. The worktops are Hebron Gold limestone.

Left The refectory table is surrounded by chairs from the Harley Street waiting room of Sarah's surgeon father, upholstered in Maya by Manuel Canovas (020 7244 7427, www.manuelcanovas.com). The painting of the cockerel is by Michelle Pearson Cooper (www.michellepearsoncooper.co.uk).



'The atmosphere in the living room was transformed overnight by the earthy warmth of the plaster, and it's magical in the evening against the light of the fire'

but Leo lost little time redesigning it to suit their requirements. 'We loved the high vaulted ceiling that gives the space a barn-like feeling, and with windows on three sides it's the lightest room in the house,' he says. 'However, everything else needed changing. The vintage oil-fired Aga was unreliable and kept breaking down, so we bit the bullet and replaced it with a electric one, which is much more efficient and keeps the draughts at bay.' Next to go were the kitchen units. 'They weren't well made and the layout wasn't ideal for us; we needed lots more preparation space as we often cook together, especially when we have a house full of guests at the weekend.' Also on Sarah's wish list was space for Archie and Grace to sit up at the worktop – 'I like being able to keep an eye on them while I'm cooking or working on my laptop,' she says.

BLANK CANVAS

When Leo and Sarah moved in to the three-storey house they were presented with a blank canvas. Every room was painted cream from top to bottom. 'We both felt the house was crying out for an injection of colour and pattern. Leo wanted to use a polished plaster finish known as marmorino for the sitting room walls, which he says always makes him think of Venetian palazzos. The atmosphere was transformed overnight by the earthy warmth of the terracotta hues and it's magical in the evening when it's lit by the fire and candlelight,' says Sarah.

The library has a very different feel with ebony bookcases designed by Leo lining the walls. 'The uprights have inlaid brass panels set into them that refract and reflect the light. I spend a lot of time in the library – another part of my work is advising collectors of pictures and furniture, so I designed a round table which I can work at or hold meetings around when necessary,' says Leo.

His passion for design began in the cradle. 'My mother's interest in art and the design of fine objects was a great influence. As soon as I >>







This page The sitting room is an extension added by previous owners in the 1950s. The sofas made to Leo's design are upholstered in Maya by Manuel Canovas (020 7244 7427, www.manuelcanovas.com). The side tables and marble-topped coffee table are Beckford designs, also made by Leo, as are the seating cubes covered in Jersey cow hide (www.beckforduk.com). **Opposite page** A boldly coloured print, a striking red chimney breast and reflected light from strips of polished brass inserted in the uprights of the bookcases combine to give the library a colourful, contemporary feel.



Each of the bedrooms in the house is decorated in a different theme – the attic guest room features a traditional chinoiserie design.

left school, the first thing I did was to enrol on a decorative arts and furniture course at the V&A.' He then worked for Christies in London and New York, before returning to the UK in 2002 when he established his own company Beckford, which specialises in the design of bespoke objects of luxury for clients. 'Seeing fine craftsmanship on a daily basis inspired me to create my own designs, which I then have made in the finest materials by the most highly skilled British craftsmen in their field,' he explains. Pieces include dining and desk accessories in wood, chess and backgammon sets on finely tooled leather boards and luggage.

COLOUR AND PATTERN

For the large and light main bedroom Sarah and Leo papered the walls in a traditional design with a shaped headboard covered in matching fabric. 'We wanted each of the bedrooms to have a very different look,' says Sarah. 'The one in the attic is chinoiserie in style with a pagoda-shaped headboard covered in fabric of the same design, while the other one is more contemporary and masculine with pale grey walls and a plain headboard covered in dark grey wool. Our plan is for Archie to move in there when he's a bit older – but he has to stop drawing cars on the walls before we'll even consider it!'



The main bedroom is papered in Snow Tree from the Summer Palace collection by Colefax and Fowler (020 7244 7427, www.colefax.com), with matching fabric covering the scalloped shaped headboard.

Be inspired by Sarah and Leo's style

GET THE LOOK

Team pretty tones of green and lilac with traditional furniture and accessories for a timeless look





Dorset Hedgerow wall cupboard, 63 (h) x 75 (w) x 36cm (d), £550, Laura Ashley.



Classic stand mixer 5K45SS in white, £349, other colours available, KitchenAid.

For stockists turn to page 113



Copper frying pan, 24cm (dia), £65, larger size also available, John Lewis.



Lifestyle extending table made from reclaimed teak, from £1,495, Raft.

Extends to comfortably seat up to eight people



Silver Sage Aura eggshell paint, £21.74 for 0.94 ltrs, Benjamin Moore.

Ely chair in Heather, 101 (h) x 49 (w) x 65cm (d), from £169, Multiyork.



Two-oven classic Aga in cream, from £4,995, other colours available, Aga.



Plum bubble small vase, 25 (h) x 17cm (dia), £12, matching tealights also available, Next.

FEATURE SOPHIE WARREN-SMITH


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ON THE RIGHT TRACK

An old railway station has been rescued from ruin and transformed into a showcase for the owners' eclectic memorabilia

FEATURE SIAN WILLIAMS/NARRATIVES **PHOTOGRAPHY** POLLY ELTES/NARRATIVES

Grace Lane and her mother Rachel had been house-hunting for a while when they stumbled upon a small black and white advert for an old railway station in the local paper. 'It immediately aroused our interest and we went for a viewing the next day,' explains Grace. 'We wanted a property of character, something out of the ordinary, and we knew straight away, as soon as we walked in and saw the high arched sash windows, that we would have to fight for it.' They were right. The property was to be sold via closed bid auction, with interested parties invited to submit their best offer. After a nail-biting wait, Grace and Rachel discovered they were the highest bidders and the house was theirs.

WORK/LIFE BALANCE

Having lived for three years in London while doing her degree in Costume for Performance, Grace always looked forward to coming back home to Lincolnshire where she felt more at peace, and since finishing her degree has lived and worked here ever since, creating unique handmade creatures. 'That's the beauty of the internet: you still have the resources to run your business, even in the middle of nowhere,' says Grace. 'I'm surrounded by open fields, my two lovely dogs and three plump chickens who never fail to provide an egg for my breakfast.'

Grace and her mother, an artist/illustrator, bought their near-derelict former railway station 15 years ago. Built in 1867, it was part of the old >>

Key facts



THE OWNERS Grace Lane, a designer, and her mother Rachel, an artist/illustrator, live in the house with greyhound Woody and German wire-hair pointer, Demo. **THE PROPERTY** A two-bedroom converted railway station in Lincolnshire. **PURCHASED** 2000. **IMPROVEMENTS MADE** The interior layout of the station was remodelled to make it suitable for modern living. Wiring and plumbing were bought up to date and the property was decorated throughout.



'The beauty of the internet means you have the resources to run your business, even in the middle of nowhere'

Lincolnshire line that ran to Stamford three miles away, which closed in 1929 when its fortunes failed after a general strike. 'The place was structurally sound when we bought it, although the interior was a complete mess,' explains Grace.

The station was gutted and all the electrics and plumbing were started from scratch, which gave this creative duo the opportunity to remodel the interior layout. 'The waiting room became a bedroom, and the ticket office is now the lounge,' explains Grace. 'The property also comprises one additional bedroom with an en suite, a main bathroom, kitchen, dining room, lounge, small conservatory, small office and porch. 'We also have a garden surrounding all sides of the property. To one end we have a large chicken run and an area that is split into sections of patio, gravel garden and lawn. My studio is also located on this side, where it catches the morning sun. To the other side of the property we have just had a greenhouse erected, where we plan to grow vegetables and flowers in the coming spring.'

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

Inside the property, walls are painted white and almost completely covered with memorabilia, every inch filled with carefully grouped collections of photographs and artwork. Looking about the dining room, for example, the walls are hung with old station-style clocks, while a wall in the living room is devoted to framed photographs commemorating the station's history. Other intriguing finds are scattered about elsewhere, all with an air of fondness to times gone by such as an antique dummy in the dining room, the old perpetual calendar next to the back door and even score cards from a local cricket ground. 'My mother and I have always had eclectic tastes,' says >>







Opposite page The dining room is a showcase for Grace and Rachel's eclectic finds. The set of drawers came from a house clearance place in town. 'They sell a lot of tacky old lady things but you can sometimes find something good,' says Grace. **Above left** Grace and Rachel moved in to the house 15 years ago and immediately set about filling it with intriguing memorabilia and treasured finds. **Above** Black and white chequeboard floor tiles make a striking statement against the soft green paintwork of the kitchen units. **Left** Much of the artwork that covers the walls is by this creative duo – the distinctive flower painting is by Rachel.

Grace. 'We've sourced things from a range of places, from eBay to junk shops and even the odd skip, adding bits and pieces into the mix as we've seen them.' Where artwork has been bought new, Grace and her mother have cleverly aged it with varnish to tie in with the older pieces.

A PERFECT RECIPE

The bulk of Grace's work is done in her attractive garden studio, which was built three years ago over a single weekend by a team of talented workers as the need for a more separate space became increasingly apparent, but she still brings the odd thing into the house to watch a favourite TV programme or to have a chat with her mum in the dining room. Both home and studio are an extension of her work, giving the perfect recipe for a wonderful working environment.

• *Turn to page 85 to discover more about Grace Lane's unique handcrafted characters, and to see her at work in her cosy garden studio.*





Above Grace's unique creatures, which she handcrafts in her garden studio, sit on a sunny window sill in the living room. **Main picture** The station's ticket hall is now an inviting living area, with a practical tiled floor that suits their two energetic dogs. The wall behind the sofa is devoted to old prints and pictures of the station's history, which Grace and Rachel have lovingly collected over the years. Their eye for the creative and the quirky is also evident in this room, with an assortment of animal figurines displayed on shelves and table tops.

3 of the best
Animal ornaments



1. Colonial cast-iron dog, 40cm (h), £34.99, Dunelm. **2.** Howard Hare bronze sculpture by Paul Jenkins, 30cm (h), £94, Frith Sculpture at John Lewis. **3.** Pinky silver pig ornament, 7.5cm (h), £13, Adventino.

For stockists turn to page113







Above Previously unloved items such as the old suitcases and laundry baskets have been cleaned up and polished, and now have a new sense of purpose. The large baskets came from an old dairy. **Above right** and **right** Grace and her mother Rachel's bedrooms are dressed with linen from Sanderson (0844 543 9500, www.sanderson-uk.com). The quilts on Grace's bed (right) were gifts for her 21st birthday and came from India.

Be inspired by Grace's style

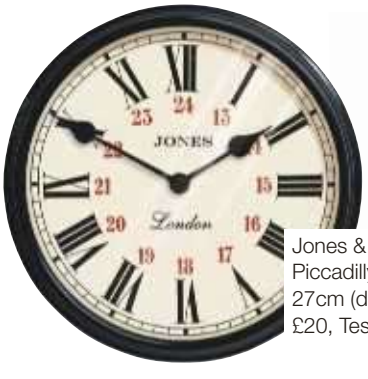
GET THE LOOK

Look out for antique buys and one-off pieces to recreate this eclectic dining room





Storage cubby unit made from mango wood, 60 (h) x 70 (w) x 20cm (d), £125, Within.



Jones & Co Piccadilly clock, 27cm (dia), £20, Tesco.



Bamboo basket with lid, use as a sewing basket, £125, Shimu.



Dressmaker's mannequin covered in vintage-style fabric on a metal base, £239, Rockett St George.



Antique Edwardian rise-and-fall double pendant, 135 (h) x 60cm (w), £940, Fritz Fryer.

For stockists turn to page 113



Industrial vintage mango wood apothecary chest, 137 (h) x 103.5 (w) x 41cm (d), £815, The Orchard.



Hand-finished paint effect for an authentic aged look

Dunham distressed rectangular table hand-crafted from reclaimed wood, £839, Out & Out Original.

KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

Making their mark on an inherited 15th-century dairy, Amanda and Will Godman-Dorrington added a large extension to maximise the views and create space for their busy family

FEATURE MAGGIE COLVIN/NARRATIVES **PHOTOGRAPHY** ROBERT SANDERSON/NARRATIVES



Set in 500 acres of Sussex farmland encircled by the South Downs, an old dairy that is home to Amanda and Will Goodman and their two boys commands uninterrupted views for 30 to 40 miles around. 'Living without another house in sight is quite special, and being high up is an added bonus,' says Amanda, watching the polo ponies graze in front of her drawing room windows. It is hard to believe that the original house didn't have even one ground-floor window positioned to savour such spectacular views of the Downs.

'There is no point in having a view and not being able to enjoy it,' Amanda observes, 'but it was just the way the house was orientated. Starting life as a dairy in the 15th century, I expect the workers in those days simply didn't have time to sit still to appreciate a view, however lovely it might be.'

TIME FOR CHANGE

About 500 years after the dairy was built, an Arts and Crafts-style drawing room was added in the 1930s using flint and brick and leaded windows to match those there already. Finally, when Amanda and Will took over the house and farm from Will's parents, they began to dream of ways to make it their own. 'Inheriting a house from your in-laws is a huge blessing,' says Amanda, 'especially this one, because all the original features were so well preserved. Thick oak doors, beams, leaded windows, large inglenooks and bumpy floorboards all contribute to its homely quirkiness. And as my in-laws were such great gardeners, it was like inheriting a mini Wisley.'

Two drawbacks were the lack of views and the very small kitchen, which was frustrating for Amanda, who is well known for her great cooking and hungry boys; so once the electrics, plumbing and bathrooms had been upgraded, the couple sat down to discuss ways they could extend to include a much larger >>

Key facts



THE OWNERS Will is a dairy farmer and Amanda is an interior decorator who runs a bed and breakfast. The couple have two sons, Archie and Hamish. **THE PROPERTY** A six-bedroom farmhouse dating back to the 1400s. **DATE PURCHASED** The couple inherited the house in 1990. **IMPROVEMENTS MADE** A huge extension was added at right angles to the original house, which has increased the size of the kitchen while also opening up the amazing views.



A large island unit divides the kitchen from the family dining room. Amanda found the pine chairs and table at Ardingly Antiques & Collectors Fair (01636 702326, www.iacf.co.uk/ardingly). The island unit is painted in Theatre Red and the other units and walls are painted in Rolling Fog, both by The Little Greene Paint Company (0845 880 5855, www.littlegreene.com). The units are by Martin Taylor (01428 708123, www.martintaylordesign.co.uk).

3 of the best Stove kettles

For stockists turn to page 113

1. Stainless steel anodised kettle in Grey, from £100, Aga Cookshop. **2.** Le Creuset stovetop whistling kettle in Volcanic, £61.60, John Lewis. **3.** Enamel stove kettle in Flint with wooden handle, £30, Garden Trading.





Style advice

'In the eaves of a house, paint low ceilings and walls in the same colour to expand and enhance the feeling of space.'

The home office is tucked below the eaves on the mezzanine floor of the new extension. Amanda decorated the wall behind the steps with a mural called Library – Colourful Knowledge by Mr Perswall (www.mrperswall.co.uk), which fakes a real bookshelf.





'It was our most challenging project to date – and the most worthwhile. The space has totally transformed our way of life as we can all live here together without feeling crowded'

kitchen. To enjoy the best view, they decided on a double-height modern barn to be built in natural materials set at right angles to the existing house. 'This was the best position, not just for the views of the Downs, but also to catch the most hours of sun,' explains Amanda. Inside the new barn, they installed a mezzanine floor tucked below the apex of the roof to use as an office. Most usefully, the projected office floor then created space below for a much-needed boot room, cloakroom and larder.

TOTAL TRANSFORMATION

Having done up two small barns to use for Amanda's bed and breakfast business, the couple had the confidence to undertake what turned out to be their largest and most challenging project to date – and the most worthwhile. 'This space has totally transformed our way of life,' says Amanda, 'as it means we can all live here together without feeling crowded.' The new extension also gave Amanda a chance to indulge her passion for decorating, using contemporary colours and fabrics to mingle with family antiques and modern furniture. 'I like to introduce modern shapes, even to the more traditional rooms in the older part of the house. Because of its chequered history, there were features that I wanted to show off. Equally there were others that were best concealed: the old well, once part of the dairy, had to be safely hidden below my laundry room floor, but when we knocked two tiny bedrooms into one, we decided to keep the old timberwork exposed.'

Amanda's style is classically English in an off-beat, unpretentious and homely way, with ancestral portraits hanging against pale grey panelled walls mixed with large capital letters and primitive >>



'Inheriting a house from your in-laws is a huge blessing – oak doors, beams, leaded windows, inglenooks and bumpy floorboards all contribute to its homely quirkiness'

paintings of dogs and ducks. Her collections of cherished objects range from Indian slippers to Vietnamese fishing pots. Part of her upcycled experiments include the coffee table in the drawing room and chunky wooden lamp bases, all made from the timber offcuts that would otherwise have been thrown out by the builders when the barn was being built.

EYE FOR A BARGAIN

Not surprisingly her friends, who often ask her for professional advice, fondly nickname her 'Miss Eagle Eye', because she is so quick to spot a bargain. Furnishing on a budget inspires rather than restricts Amanda, who has worked out some useful decorating maxims over the years. 'I never buy patterned tiles,' she says, 'as you can tire of them so quickly. For the same reason, I buy timeless textiles and I use sisal rugs rather than pale oak floors. As a self-styled Mrs Can't-afford-it-but-can-effect-it, she finds pretty shapes to paint, so the house is full of colour.

Being the only woman in an otherwise male-dominated household, Amanda enjoys the freedom of being creative without too much resistance. She could paint the walls of the snug inglenook in blue and green stripes and her menfolk probably wouldn't notice, although they are all silently grateful for the relaxed and colourful ambiance of their home. All of her artistic endeavours only serve to increase the charm and homeliness of the farmhouse. 'It is an on-going project,' says her husband Will, knowingly. Amanda smiles in agreement and adds: 'Like the Forth Bridge.'

• Amanda has decorated two small barns for bed and breakfast guests. To find out more, call 01798 867493 or visit www.willowbarns.co.uk.







Opposite and **above left** The drawing room is a double-aspect space overlooking a field of polo ponies on one side and the garden on the other. The sofas are from Sofas & Stuff (0808 178 3211, www.sofasandstuff.com), the coffee table was upcycled from timber offcuts and painted by Amanda. The cushions are made from embroidered offcuts and walls are painted in Rolling Fog from The Little Greene Paint Co (as before). **Above** In the hall a woodburning stove takes centre stage, flanked by an antique high-backed oak chair and a comfortable armchair. The primitive oil painting of a duck came from The One World Trading Company (01428 651087, www.one.world/holly-park). **Left** The dining room is a great party room seating up to 20 guests. The inglenook dates back to the 15th century.

>>

The master bedroom features unpainted oak beams that are more than 300 years old. A guest room (below) was stripped of the old plaster and the beams were exposed. The antique French bed came from Ardingly Antiques & Collectors Fair.



The bathroom walls were lined with MDF grooved panels and painted in Pale Powder; the walls are in String, both by Farrow & Ball (01202 876141, www.farrow-ball.com).



Be inspired by Amanda's style

GET THE LOOK

Mix timeless pieces of furniture with accents of pink and classic accessories to recreate this comfortable room



Midori Sunflower mirror with a gold leaf finish, 42cm (dia), £105, Out There Interiors.

Delicate leaf shapes form an elegant sunflower design





Lyon coffee table hand-carved from solid mango wood, 40 (h) x 113 (w) x 73cm (d), £275, Within.

For stockists turn to page 113



Butterfly wall art, 60 (w) x 50cm (d), £125, Adventino.



Arabella pink velvet cushion trimmed with matching pom-poms, 50 (w) x 50cm (d), £30, Ragged Rose.



Boho Flowers fabric, £95 per m, from the Sojourn Prints and Embroideries collection, Sanderson.

Woodberry floor lamp made from mango wood with a linen shade, 160 (h) x 60cm (d), £325, Loaf.



Soft cream crackle-glaze apothecary vase with nostalgic lettering, 27cm (h), £28, Pastel Lane.



Alexander three-seater sofa in Avorez Mirage 0001, 78 (h) x 220 (w) x 92cm (d), £2,995, The Sofa & Chair Company.

FEATURE SOPHIE WARREN-SMITH



Light pours in through the French windows onto the enchanting festive table setting. The armoire is from Foxhole Antiques (07814 663281, www.foxholeantiques.com), the mirror is from Ensor Interior Design (01892 750101, www.ensorinteriordesign.co.uk) and the trunk is from Ardingly Antiques & Collectors Fair (01636 702326, www.iacf.co.uk/ardingly).



CHRISTMAS PRESENCE

Sophie Dean's warm and welcoming renovated home sets the tone for the perfect family celebrations

FEATURE ALICE MORO **PHOTOGRAPHY** DAVID GILES

Throughout the Dean household you can sense the imminence of Christmas, for it's at this time of year that Sophie likes to pull out the stops. 'At the beginning of December I start to think about how I'm going to decorate the house. We get the main tree a couple of weeks into December and then I get the decorations out,' says Sophie. 'I love this time of year – it's all about family, enjoying an open fire and making gingerbread men with the children.'

The Deans found their house in March 2006. At the time they were living in an elegant Georgian >>







Above The kitchen cupboards were designed by Sophie and made by a local joiner, Danny Hills of Traditional Staircases (07967 255117), who also made the windows. The white cimstone work surface is from Bespoke Surfaces (01892 862698, www.bespokesurfaces.co.uk). The stools are from Loaf (0845 468 0698, www.loaf.com). **Right** Candles amid silvery and coppery ornaments are offset against a linen runner. **Far right** Sophie chose a hardwearing Umbrian limestone floor from Floors of Stone (01509 234000, www.floorsofstone.com) to cope with all the comings and goings. **Opposite page** The alcove shelving was designed to display Sophie's much-loved glass cake stands and collection of white china.





'As soon as I walked in I knew this was where I wanted to live. It was a combination of the old brickwork, the weathered wood and even the click of the door handle'

flat in the historic Pantiles in nearby Tunbridge Wells. 'There wasn't anywhere to park and we were thinking about starting a family so it was time to move,' says Sophie.

Ian found the cottage on the internet. 'As we'd done the town thing by then, everything about the country lane leading to the property felt right,' says Sophie. 'I knew as I opened the front door that this was where I wanted to live. It was a combination of the old brickwork, weathered wood and even the click of the door handle.'

RIPE FOR RENOVATION

The interior was cold and dark but ripe for renovation. Once the couple moved in they began to inject some TLC into the neglected property. Low points were discovering that the chimney breast was unsupported, hundreds of tiny moths living under a Formica worktop and asbestos in one of the bedrooms. Sophie made mood boards with lighting, wiring and furniture plans for each room. 'That's what really helped to keep me positive,' she admits. 'I spent a long time on the internet sourcing things that weren't as expensive as they looked.'

The couple worked every weekend on the renovation for more than a year. Plastic windows were replaced with wooden ones and French windows were added at the back of the house. Sophie shovelled rubble in bags while Ian and his brother-in-law did most of the building work. Surrounded by debris, they slept on a blow-up bed and cooked on a camping stove. Every morning, Ian and Sophie would dust themselves down before leaving for work. 'The irony was that I was advising clients on their interiors, having come from a hovel myself,' Sophie laughs.

Never content to rest on their laurels, in 2012 the kitchen extension was added. 'This time we had the dust, disruption and upheaval with two young children,' says Sophie.

FAMILY TRADITIONS

On Christmas Eve, Ted and Dorrie open their first presents – a pair of new pyjamas. 'Once they've put their pyjamas on we go into the sitting room to sit by the fire and read *The Night Before* >>



Key facts



THE OWNERS Sophie Dean, an interior designer, and her husband Ian, a commerical director for a manufacturer, live here with their two children, Ted and Dorrie. **THE PROPERTY** A semi-detached three-bedroom farm cottage close to Tunbridge Wells in Kent that was built in 1833. **PURCHASED** 2006. **IMPROVEMENTS MADE** The year-long renovation project included replacing the plastic windows with wooden ones and adding French windows to the back of the house. A few years later a new kitchen extension was added.



For more festive homes, don't miss the CHRISTMAS ISSUE of PH&I on sale 20 November



Christmas. Afterwards we hang up our stockings and leave a glass of sherry and gingerbread out for Father Christmas, before going to bed,' says Sophie.

Christmas morning starts around 6am when the children creep downstairs to find their stockings filled. The family then enjoys a breakfast of scrambled eggs, smoked salmon and Champagne. The children put on their new Christmas Day outfits and await the arrival of other members of the family. 'Last year there were 14 of us,' Sophie recalls. 'After the meal we like to go for a really long walk before coming home to open the rest of the presents.'

PEACEFUL SANCTUARY

Sophie and Ian have created a beautiful family home that exudes warmth and happiness. However, never content to live in a static environment, Sophie has a fondness for moving things about. 'I feel it's good to refresh a space and then you see it again in a different way,' she says. 'It's a bit of joke as it can be disorientating for Ian and the children.'

Sophie is clearly pleased they took the decision to move out of the town. 'I love it here – it feels like a sanctuary. Leaving the busy road and entering the green lanes never fails to uplift me. It's so quiet you can hear the birds singing, and we have lovely neighbours.'



Below from top Subtle decorations in white, glass and silver add an understated look to the Christmas tree. Sophie inherited the grandfather clock from her father, which fitted in to the room with just a couple of millimetres to spare. **Left** A decorated branch from an apple tree stands out against the calm surroundings in the sitting room. **Far left** The Christmas tree is displayed in a zinc tub in the family room. The trunk, which once belonged to Sophie's grandfather, is now used as a dressing-up box. Sophie made the striped cushion covers from a Ralph Lauren sample book.







Get the look p59

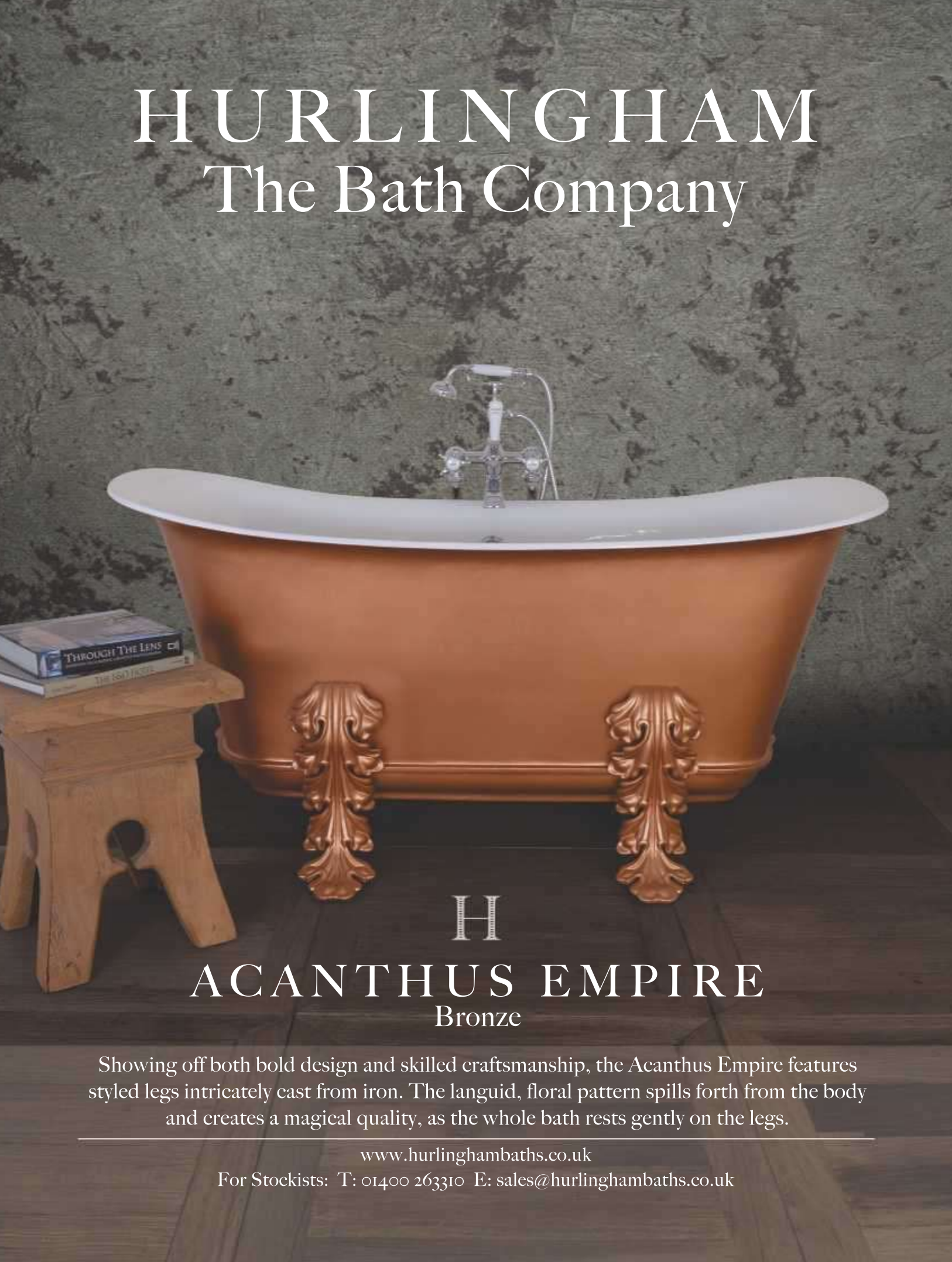
Exposed beams in the main bedroom add height to the low ceilings. The cast-iron bed is from Feather & Black (01243 380600, www.featherandblack.com). The Opera lamps are from Heathfield & Co (01732 350450, www.heathfield.co.uk).



Both children have their own mini Christmas trees in their bedrooms. Ted's is decorated with tin soldiers that Sophie bought when he was born.



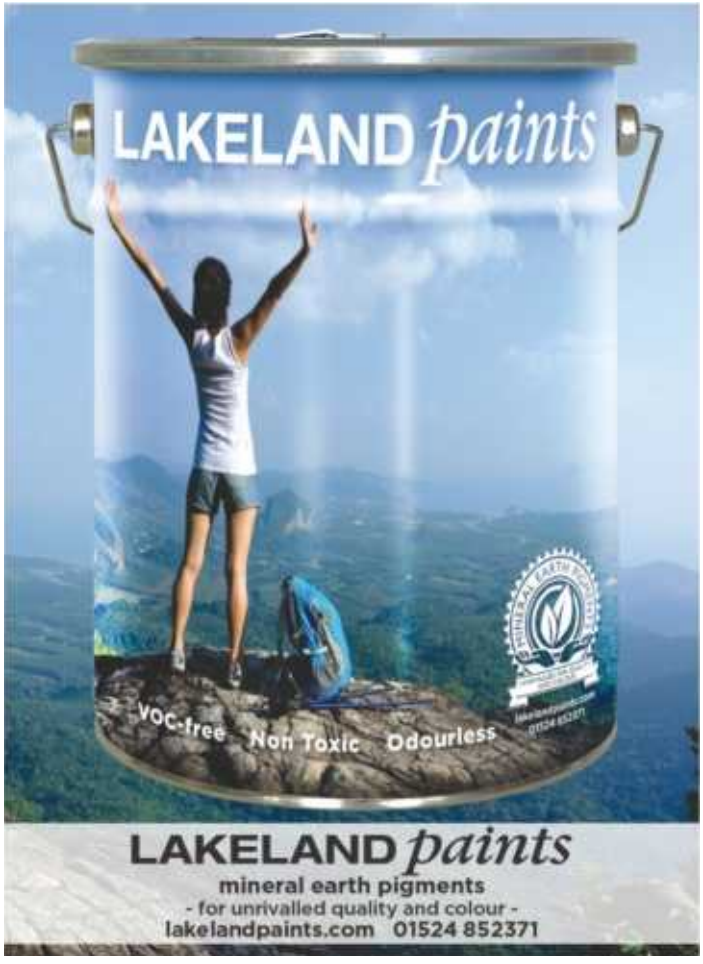
The mirror adds a strong statement to the otherwise white bathroom. The tiles are from Fired Earth (01295 814396, www.firedearth.com) and the basin is from Bathstore (0330 024 0845, www.bathstore.com).

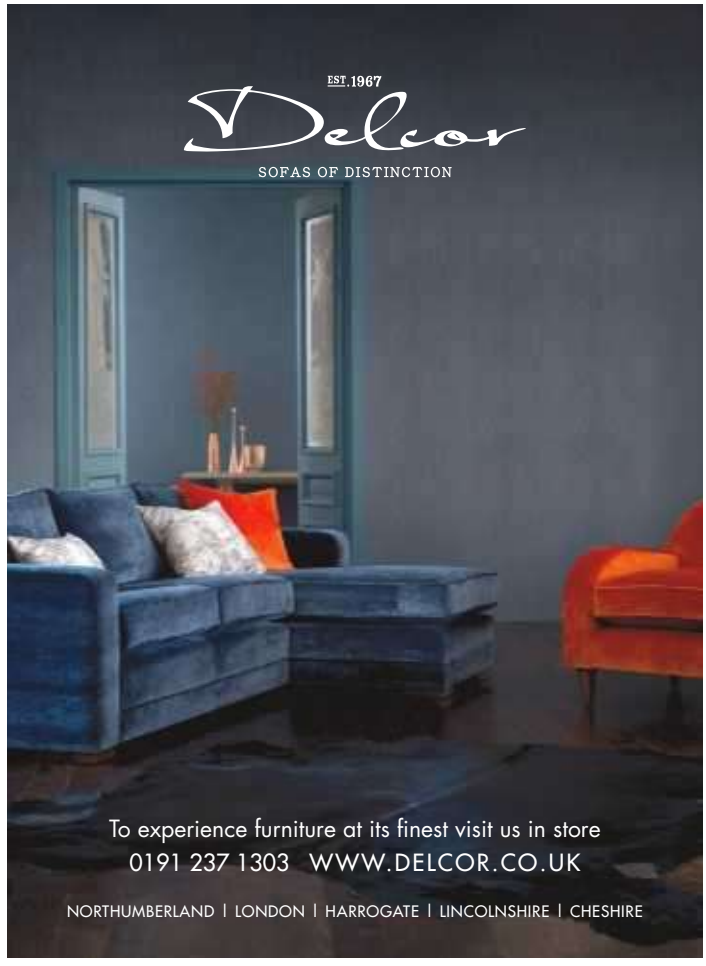


Showing off both bold design and skilled craftsmanship, the Acanthus Empire features styled legs intricately cast from iron. The languid, floral pattern spills forth from the body and creates a magical quality, as the whole bath rests gently on the legs.

www.hurlinghambaths.co.uk

For Stockists: T: 01400 263310 E: sales@hurlinghambaths.co.uk







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Be inspired by Sophie's style

GET THE LOOK

Layer different textures and prints in calming neutral shades to recreate this cosy cottage bedroom





White bulb arrangement with phalaenopsis orchids, narcissus, double tulips and catkins, 25cm (h), £39, Bloom.

For stockists turn to page 113



Classic Urn 35mm finial in mahogany finish, also comes in charcoal and gold, £22, Laura Ashley.



Wall-mounted decorative mirror, available in different shapes and sizes, £10, John Lewis.

Made in a Yorkshire mill that has been in production since 1837



Windowpane check throw in 100% pure wool, 130 (w) x 200cm (d), £59, Raft.



Harlow fabric in linen, £33 per m, from the Tamed Spirit collection at Olivia Bard.



Burlington crystal large ball lamp with 19-inch cream Lucile shade, £200, Neptune.



Anita bedside table, 70 (h) x 36 (w) x 36cm (d), £95, Adventino.



Keeler bed frame in black, £645 for a double, Barker & Stonehouse.



Winter planting tips

Follow this advice for colour and interest

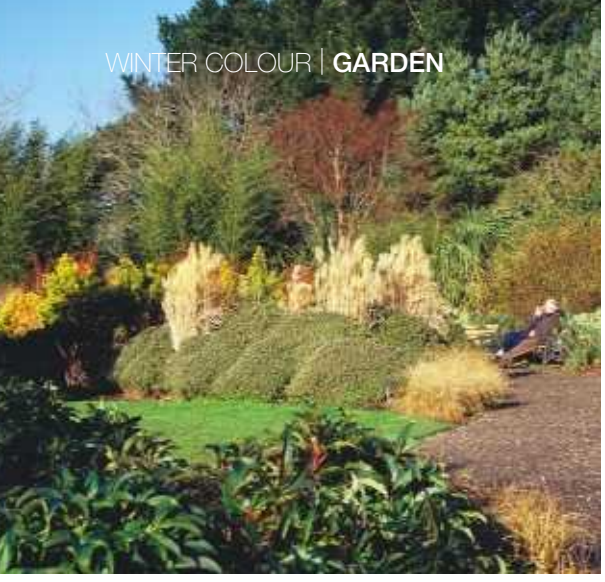
- Take time to observe the subtle combinations at this quieter time in the garden.
- Floral beauty may be scarce in winter but each bloom is appreciated. Top choices are scented shrubs such as sarcococca, winter honeysuckle, winter jasmine, viburnum, daphne and witch hazel.
- For coloured stems you can't beat dogwoods and willows. Pruning or coppicing intensifies their colour.
- For berries consider callicarpa and euonymous.
- Select hardy plants that continue to look good through winter with coloured stems or interesting bark. My favourite barks would be *Prunus serrula* or *Acer davidii*.
- Don't forget the value of evergreens, trimmed into structural forms and as foils to colour.
- Ornamental grasses stand up well through winter.

PHOTOGRAPHY LEIGH CLAPP



WINTER GARDEN STROLLING

While most gardens have been put to bed there are still some inspiring options specifically planted to celebrate the winter season











HILLIER GARDENS, HAMPSHIRE

The Sir Harold Hillier Gardens are the largest of their kind in Europe – with a vast collection of hardy trees and shrubs that continues to be developed, and home to one of the best winter gardens in the world. When the Hillier family took up residence in the adjacent Jermyn's House in 1953, Sir Harold set about transforming the land around his home into the park-like gardens you see today. There are some 42,000 plants in an area of 180 acres with something of interest throughout the year. In 1997 the gardens' importance were recognised by their inclusion in the English Heritage's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens as being of special historic interest.

Michael W Buffin, well-respected author and advisor for the National Trust, helped design the winter garden when he was curator of living collections at Hilliers. The garden is designed as a magical winter walk. Visitors stroll the central lawn or one of the many paths that weave through the plantings allowing close-up observations of the details. Set in four acres, it contains more than 650 different plants grown for winter effect that are at their best from November to March.

There are blocks of massed plantings to increase the effects, structural evergreens as backdrops and attention to all levels, from towering trees to carpets of ground cover. Holding the national collections of cornus and *Hamamelis* (witch hazel) ensures a dazzling selection of these gems. Other highlights include eye-catching tangles of *Rubus thibetanus*, tactile barks, waving ornamental grasses and sweetly scented daphnes. I particularly loved fringings of copper-toned Bergenia 'Sunningdale' under spidery witch hazel, accompanied by wafting *Cortaderia selloana* 'Aureolineata' (pampas grass), contrasted with architectural small phormiums.

OPENING TIMES

Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Jermyns Lane, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 0QA (www.hillier.hants.gov.uk). Winter opening (November to March) 10am to 5pm.

Clockwise from top left Stroll the paths in the Hillier Gardens and take time to enjoy the winter planting; witch hazels are a highlight for both their tactile bright blooms and delicious scent; bergenias make a wonderful underplanting for deciduous trees and hamamelis; mass planting cornus and salix for their fiery stems is an idea that would work in your own garden; the beauty of peeling bark from acers and prunus.





Other winter gardens

Anglesey Abbey, Cambridgeshire • **Cambridge University Botanic Garden** • **Westonbirt Arboretum**, Gloucestershire • **RHS Garden Wisley**, Surrey • **The Savill Garden**, Surrey • **RHS Garden Rosemoor**, Devon • **Royal Botanic Gardens Kew**, London







RHS HARLOW CARR, YORKSHIRE

As an RHS garden, your expectations of great botanical care will not be disappointed at Harlow Carr. Covering 68 acres, it's glorious throughout the year, and winter is no exception. At the time of my visit, the fog was so thick you could barely see your hand, yet the effect was quite magical, and to appreciate the details you had to get up close and personal to the plants. Shiny Christmas balls sparkled on bare branches to welcome you to the garden, and glimpses of muted forms beckoned beyond along The Winter Walk, which is designed to inspire ideas you can replicate at home. The walk runs east to west to catch the best of the morning and late-afternoon sun in order to light up the fiery stems and outline the sculptural shapes of the bare trees.

Grasses really star in their winter planting, along with a masterful use of coloured stems and trees. Translucent shimmering *Miscanthus sinensis* grasses appear in huge clumps, their parchment tones ethereal in the mist, partnered with blackened seedheads of rudbeckias. Fans of golden *Salix irrorata* and explosions of red *Cornus sericea* 'Cardinal' and 'Aurea' add colour to the landscape. Shiny orange-barked *Prunus serrula* and stands of *Betula pendula* are planted to catch the eye against the background of the golden and red stems, while clipped yews and conifers lend a sense of formality to the design. My close-up study also revealed more subtle gems, such as the tiny blood-red flower of *Parrotia persica* (ironwood), golden heads of mahonia glinting in the mist and the remaining crab apples that were yet to be gobbled up by the resident birds, dripping with dew-like rare jewels.

Following your stroll around the winter walk I can highly recommend popping in to the famous Bettys Cafe Tea Rooms, which has a branch at Harlow Carr.

OPENING TIMES

RHS Harlow Carr, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG3 1QB (www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/harlow-carr). Winter opening (November to February) 9.30am to 4pm.

Clockwise from top left Fog adds to the charm of RHS Harlow Carr with fingers of skeletal orange salix stems gleaming against the muted greenery; *Viburnum tinus* 'Eve Price' flowers through winter in tiny clusters; frost coats the cornus stems like dustings of icing sugar; the last of the glistening fruit of *Malus* 'Evereste' draws the eye at Harlow Carr; coppery *Prunus serrula* bark.

>>











WAKEHURST PLACE, SUSSEX

Kew's country garden is a joy to visit at any time of year and winter is no exception to discover its specially planted area. Situated to the west of the Elizabethan mansion, adjacent to the walled garden, you will find vibrant stems, architectural greens, scented flowers, textural barks and skeletal parchment-toned grasses in a series of carefully designed beds and borders. Brimming with a vast array of plants, it is sure to brighten the dullest winter day.

In one bed, yellow and green variegated shrubs contrast with a carpet of winter-flowering *Erica carnea* 'Springwood White' along with other hues of heather in pink and crimson that ebb and flow from December through to March. By the lawns, mass-planted dogwoods, including the aptly named *Cornus sanguinea* 'Midwinter Fire' and willows, with their scarlet and golden stems, have been placed to catch the rays of low winter sunlight. The unusual black stems of *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Nigra' act as a striking foil, intensifying the sight. Another bed shows the power of monochrome. Magnificent white-barked birches are underplanted with inky-black *Ophiopogon planiscapus* 'Nigrescens' (mondo grass) dotted with emerging snowdrops.

As you stroll the paths and explore the detail you will also enjoy intoxicating scents. Most of the flowers are not large or showy at this time of the year so you may have to hunt for the sources. Subtle cream sarcococca (sweet box), twiggy honeysuckle or spidery witch hazel are just three to discover. Remember that some blooms hold fast to their scent so try almost burying your nose in them to discover their fragrance. Other perfumes will waft over you as you pass by. &H

OPENING TIMES

Wakehurst Place, Ardingly, West Sussex, RH17 6TN (www.kew.org). Open daily from 10am.

• Add an extra element and book your place for 'Glow Wild', a winter lantern trail taking place from 4-13 December at 4.30pm, 5.30pm and 6.30pm and see the UK's largest living Christmas tree.

Clockwise from top left The Wakehurst mansion makes an atmospheric backdrop to the winter beds; ghostly brambles rise from the carpet of heather; add fragrance with *Daphne bholua* var. glacialis; winter stems are the best way to add intense colour; the winter planting at Wakehurst Place is sure to inspire ideas such as planting in blocks of colour; ribbons of dahlias and massed sedums contrast with the natural areas.






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DECEMBER

In the garden



This month: how to add seasonal colour, enjoy a winter harvest and make natural Christmas decorations

Leigh Clapp, *Period Homes & Interiors* gardening expert

Whether the days are crisp and bright or misty and cold, take time to enjoy the details around you as winter advances. Birds foraging on berries; bare branches and stems forming a skeletal tracery against the sky; plants going into dormancy; tones of russet, fawn and umber all around; these are all sights to savour. On good days get out into the garden and tackle one job at a time – continue to tidy borders and rake up leaves, while digging over beds will make planting easier come spring – when days are inclement snuggle up inside with some catalogues or *Period Homes & Interiors* and plan new ideas. I like to add some winter cheer by popping in some heather, cyclamen or winter pansies around the base of our potted topiary. You can pot up containers from scratch with a central focal point such a small conifer or phormium and surround it with low-growing choices.

As the festive season is nearly upon us, collect greenery, seedheads, flowers and berries to make some natural Christmas decorations. One tip is to cut branches or sprigs from different sections of the tree as heavy pruning could leave the plant vulnerable to frost. Hopefully your birds will have left some berries on the holly. I love to bring in these traditional symbols on Christmas Eve to adorn the fireplace in my home.

In the vegetable garden, harvest some leeks to add to potatoes for warming soups, but leave parsnips in the ground until we've have some good frosts to make them sweeter and tastier for casseroles and roasting.



Tip *Only plant if the ground is not frozen*

Plant an informal rose hedge

1 Prepare the ground with organic matter and ensure good drainage. 2 Select wild species and cultivars that have fruits or hips, which are lovely to look at in autumn and great food for the birds, such as *Rosa canina* or *Rosa rugosa* 'Alba'. 3 You don't need to prune heavily, just trim old wood and shape in spring. Don't deadhead flowers or you'll miss out on the glossy rose hips.



DECK THE HALLS

Adorn your house this Christmas with these inexpensive options

Real **tree**, from £29.99; green **wreath** with stars, £19.99; **garland**, £19.99; silver **stag head**, £7.99; clear **glass bauble** filled with ivy, £3.99; silver **shatterproof baubles**, pack of 12, £3.99; white **pine cone** decorations, £6.99; white **bird house** decorations, £3.99; silver **wheelbarrow** decoration, £2.99; **hedgehogs**, £3.99; green foliage **star**, £4.99; cyclamen **trough**, £14.99; all Dobbies. www.dobbies.com.



Gift for a gardener

This Zeller garden set with basket and stool will make the perfect Christmas present for a green-fingered friend, £32.35, www.amazon.co.uk.

Date for your diary

Christmas at Kew is set to enchant once again with its magical twilight garden trail. From 25 November; booking essential, www.kew.org/visit-kew-gardens

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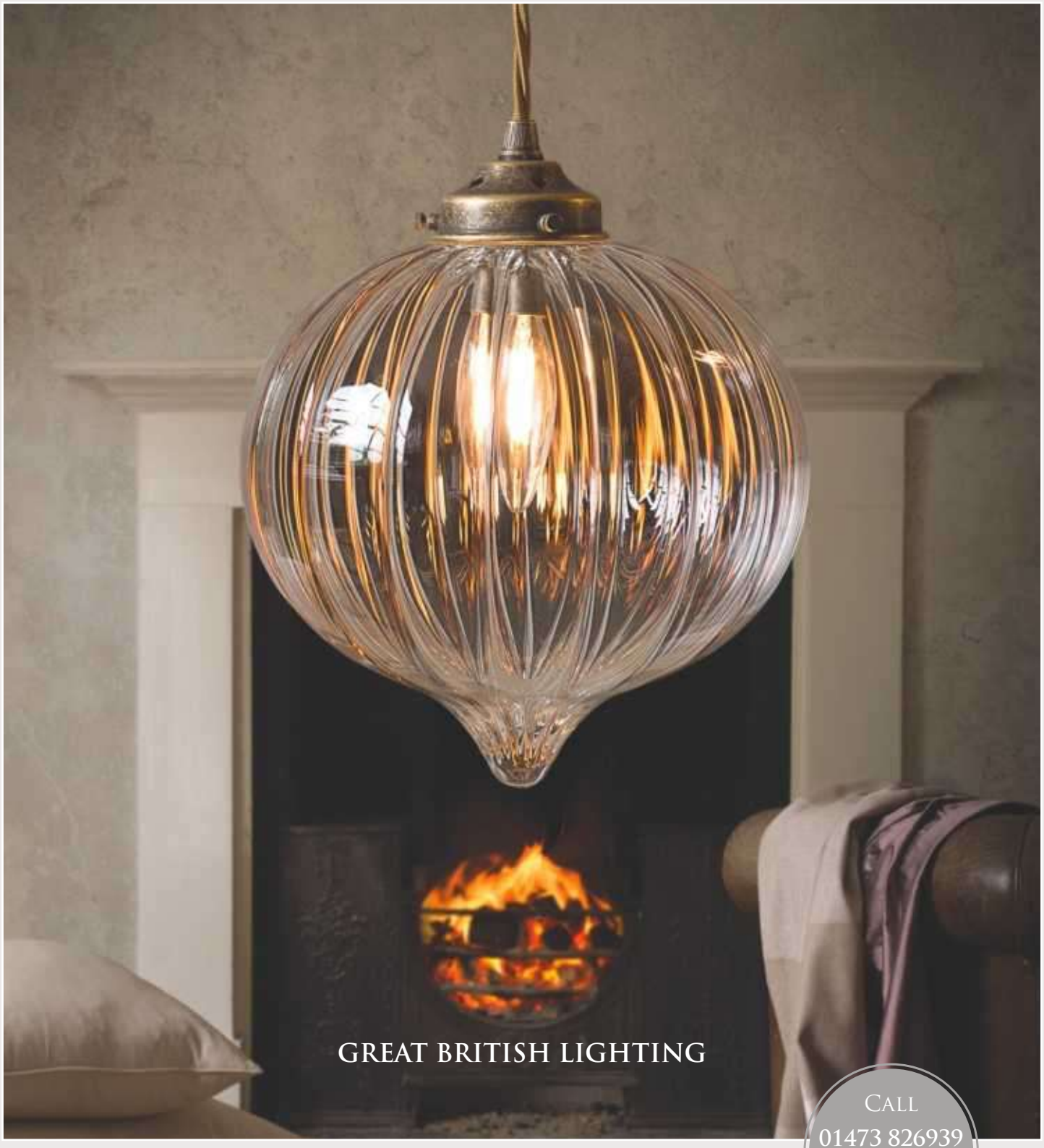
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At Home

Festive special · Focus on doors · Restoration tips · Bathrooms · Kitchens



FESTIVE IDEAS

Get prepared now for ways to update your home in time for Christmas, from festive tableware to quick fixes for the guest bedroom



KITCHENS

Essential homewares to make life easier over the busy festive period



FOCUS ON DOORS

Give your home a smart first impression with creative updates and design details for front doors





CENTREPIECE ISLAND

This Original kitchen by Harvey Jones has all the design details required to create the look of a traditional kitchen – in-frame doors, tongue-and-groove end panels, turned support pillars and a simple overmantel – while offering contemporary workmanship. Prices from £18,000. 0800 389 6938, www.harveyjones.com.

IN THE KITCHEN

Invest in one or two new buys that will make life easier over the festive period…



Clever cooking

An energy-efficient heat storage range cooker is a hefty investment, but will go a long way towards making light work of the Christmas cooking. The Everhot 120i has three ovens for roasting, baking and slow cooking, plus cast-iron hotplates and a three-zone induction hob. The all-electric model needs no flue, and costs £8,240. Visit www.everhot.co.uk for further details.



LITTLE DONKEY

We can't resist an animal-print tea towel at the best of times, and this donkey design, £14.95, seems particularly apt for the Christmas season. It's by designer Kate Moby, and is just one of a host of hand-drawn illustrations that include a dog, hare, reindeer, mouse, rabbit, chicken and cow. You can also buy matching aprons, prints, cushions, phone cases, crockery and tableware for the perfect country-style Christmas gifts. www.katemoby.com.

If you're on the lookout for new festive recipes to update your repertoire, we reckon any Jamie Oliver idea is virtually guaranteed to work, even the first time you try it! www.jamieoliver.com.

Show your metal

Industrial-style metal pieces can make quirky additions to the kitchen. Cabinet, £550, Out There Interiors (www.outthereinteriors.com); Helsing chair, £205, Smithers of Stamford (www.smithersofstamford.com).



3 OF THE BEST SEASONAL KITCHEN HELPERS

For stockists turn to page 113



Round Le Creuset cast-iron casserole dish in Rosemary green, 24cm (dia), £175, exclusive to House of Fraser.

Aluminium roasting pan with sturdy double-rivetted steel handles, 41.5 (l) x 27cm (w), £60, GreenPan.

Pastel-green retro-style slow-cooker by Swan, with 3.5-litre capacity ceramic pot, £49.99, Very.co.uk.

FEATURE LINDA PARKER







Two-tone **cabinets** featuring off-white wall cupboards and mushroom base units tie in with a Villeroy & Boch farmhouse **sink**, all from deVOL, and light tumbled travertine **tiles** from Floors of Stone.



HEART OF STONE

Traditional cabinetry, stone floors and a new extension gave the owners of this 17th-century farmhouse near the Peak District the kitchen they had always dreamed of

> ***The brief:***
> To replace the existing 20-year-old kitchen and dark slate flooring and extend the space to make it suitable for modern living.

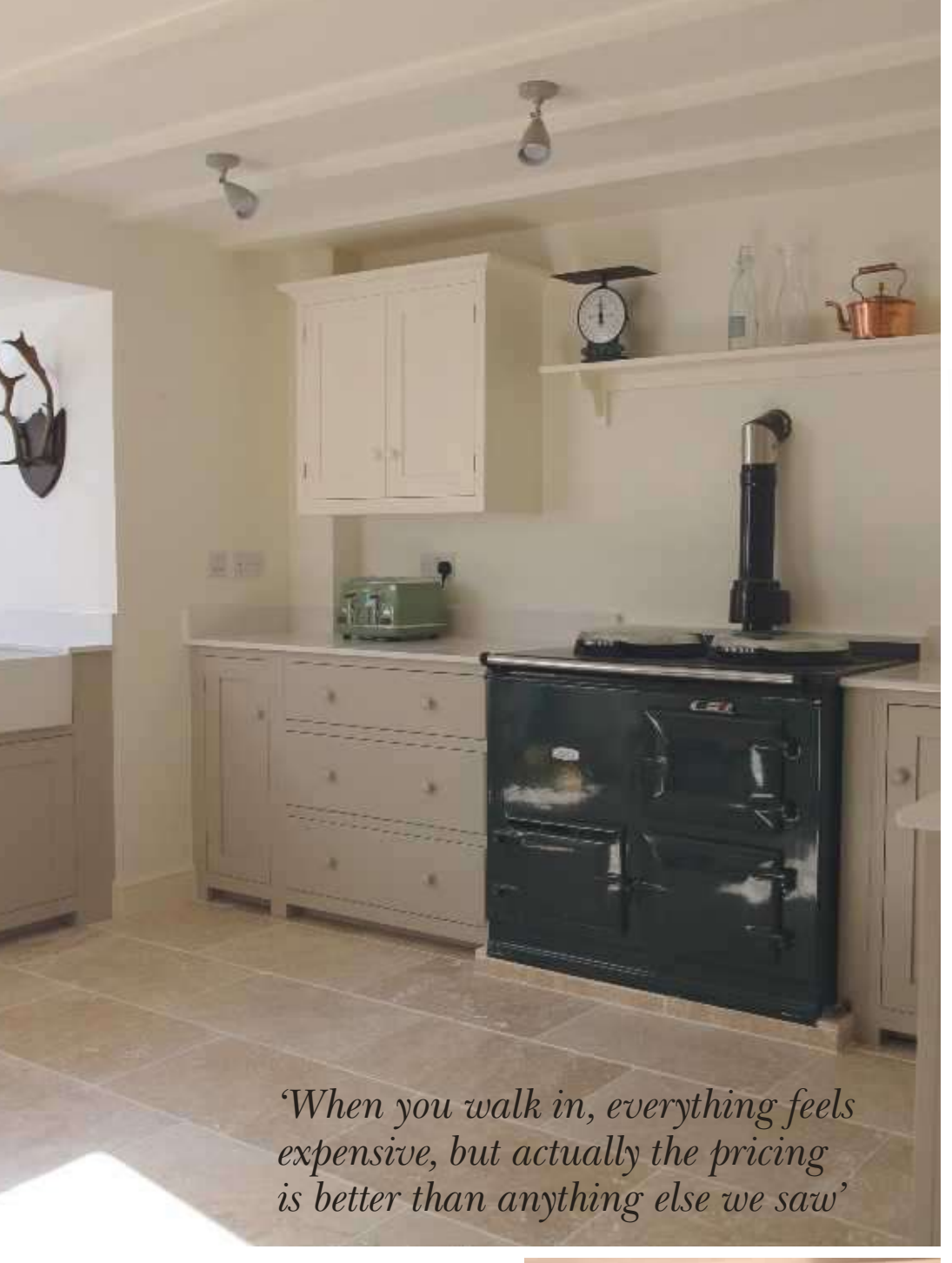
When Jon and Nicola started planning their new kitchen, it quickly became obvious that it was just too small for what they wanted. 'We worked with designers at deVOL on a plan based on the existing floor space, but then decided to extend to create something special,' explains Jon.

As the kitchen is accessed directly from the front door, their priority was to add a peninsula island unit. This creates a dividing space within the new extension and makes more of an entrance to the house. They also wanted to hide all white goods behind cupboard doors and create a rustic, earthy feel.

Everything in the old kitchen was removed and the space was stripped back to bare brick, with the exception of the Aga. 'Even though it's 20 years old, it still works like new and we love the warmth it creates, so keeping it was essential,' says Jon.

'We knew from the start that we wanted a handmade Shaker-style kitchen. The house dates back more than 400 years, so it would never suit modern cabinets. Friends of our recommended we go to deVOL, and as soon as we walked into the showroom we saw exactly what we wanted.' The flooring in the old kitchen was slate, which made the space feel dark, so replacing it with something light was key. 'We knew we wanted natural stone,





'When you walk in, everything feels expensive, but actually the pricing is better than anything else we saw'

so we chose 10 samples to get an idea how each one would work against the mushroom-coloured base cabinets, then settled on a light tumbled travertine tile from Floors of Stone,' explains Jon.

FINAL VERDICT

'Everything about the kitchen feels like a success and we achieved everything we wanted. There isn't anything we would change,' says Jon.

- Kitchens from deVOL start from around £8,000. To find out more, call 01509 261000 or visit www.devolkitchens.co.uk. Tumbled travertine floor tiles cost £26 per sq m, from Floors of Stone (01509 234000, www.floorsofstone.com).



STEAL THEIR STYLE

Recreate Jon and Nicola's look with these key buys



1

2



For stockists turn to page 113



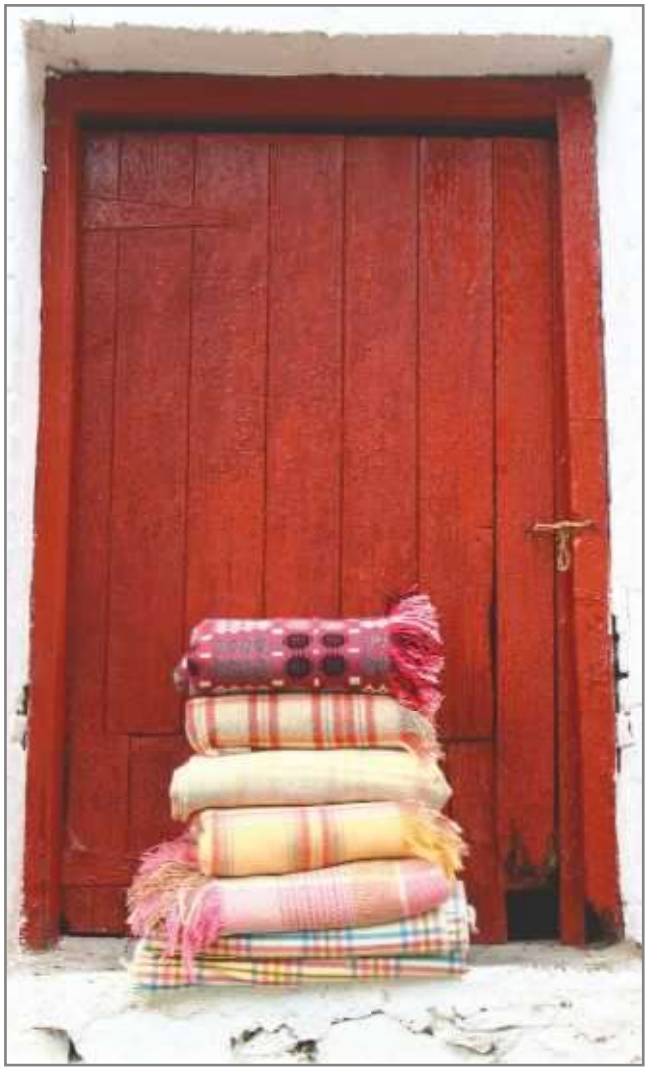
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4

1. Large antler wall plaque, 50 (w) x 80cm (h), £121, Adventino. **2.** Black mechanical scales, £20, Debenhams. **3.** Weathered oak Bumble bar stool, sold as a pair, £250, Loaf. **4.** De'Longhi Vintage Icona four-slot toaster, £59.99, John Lewis.

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For more festive ideas, don't miss the CHRISTMAS ISSUE *of* PH&I **on sale 20 November**

20 IDEAS FOR...

Planning for CHRISTMAS

It's never too early to get prepared for Christmas and we have ideas for every area of your home, from festive tableware to instant updates for the guest bedroom



2

WARMING ACCESSORIES

A touch of faux fur and a winter white colour scheme can stand the addition of vibrant garlands and a wreath. Howard armchair, £1,595; Allegri cube pouffe, from £655; Snow Leopard throw, £345; all from The Sofa & Chair Company. 020 8993 4415, www.thesofaandchair.co.uk.

1



SUBTLE MOTIF ▸

The frosty snowflake design on this dove-grey cushion is subtle enough for all year round, £19.50, Marks & Spencer. www.marksandspencer.com.



3



▸SOFA SO GOOD

A high-quality sofa bed can stand up to regular use, if required. The Sundance, from £2,001 by Delcor, has a hardwood beech frame, is available in single, double and king sizes, and comes with a memory foam or fully sprung mattress. 0191 237 1303, www.delcor.co.uk.

4

ENTERTAINING MADE EASY

The new Halo tableware collection from Denby is safe to use in the microwave, dishwasher and even in the oven and freezer, making it a versatile choice if you're catering for a large number of guests. Prices start from £6.75 for an egg cup and go up to £66.50 for a casserole dish. These mugs cost £11.25 each. 01773 740899, www.denby.co.uk.

>>

FEATURE LINDA PARKER



5 Burning ambition

The Ø8 steel multi-fuel stove, £1,480, from Morso, has a dark grey finish and a double-door design, so the firebed can be clearly seen. The Clean Burn system ensures the doors won't get covered in soot, and it has a Fire-Slide control. The large capacity means it can burn logs up to 50cm long. www.morso.co.uk.





6

▲LET IT GLOW

This naturally fragranced Wild Fig scented candle, £16.50, from Annabel James is made from 100% natural wax, and comes in a silvered flower and bee print glass. 0345 548 0210, www.annabeljames.co.uk.



7

Keep all the festive tipples in one place with this Carraway Art Deco-style drinks cabinet, £599, from Marks & Spencer. Measuring 100 (h) x 83 (w) x 49cm (d), it contains plenty of space for glasses and bottles. www.marksandspencer.com.



8



FUN FURS ▸
Create a winter wonderland in your Christmas living room with these alpaca cushions, 40 (w) x 40cm (d), £140, Samantha Holmes. 01436 676777, www.samanthaholmes.com.

9



◂ COLOURFUL EXTRAS
The Breatheasy® range from Crown contains no solvents. It's perfect for a pre-holiday tidy up, knowing the smell of fresh paint will disperse quickly. Shown here (from left), So Sweet and Easy Peasy, from £18.49 for 1.5 ltrs of Feature Wall Matt. www.crownpaints.co.uk.



10

STEPPING UP
Make a smart entrance in your hallway this Christmas by updating the carpet. Serenity Truffle SE104 100% wool carpet, £49 per sq m, Crucial Trading. 01562 743747, www.crucial-trading.com.

11 Opulent schemes

Switch your regular dining room scheme from pale and interesting to opulent and glamorous with touches of purple and gold. These decorations and accessories are all from a selection by Dunelm. Eaton Soft Grey cross-back dining chairs, £199 per pair; Eaton extending oval table in beech and walnut, from £699; dresser unit, £699.99; also all by Dunelm. 0345 165 6565, www.dunelm.com.

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TARTAN TREATS
Choose a warm and welcoming red and green plaid design for a new look in the spare bedroom. Balmoral quilt set, from £29.99, Dorma. www.dorma.co.uk .

12



13 Perfectly polished

A fireplace is a true symbol of Christmas time. A cast-iron design can be good choice for smaller homes, as they tend to come in standard sizes and are straightforward to install into an existing opening. Castfireplaces offers a good choice of traditional designs in both black and polished iron finishes. Prices from about £390. 01773 749060, www.castfireplaces.co.uk.

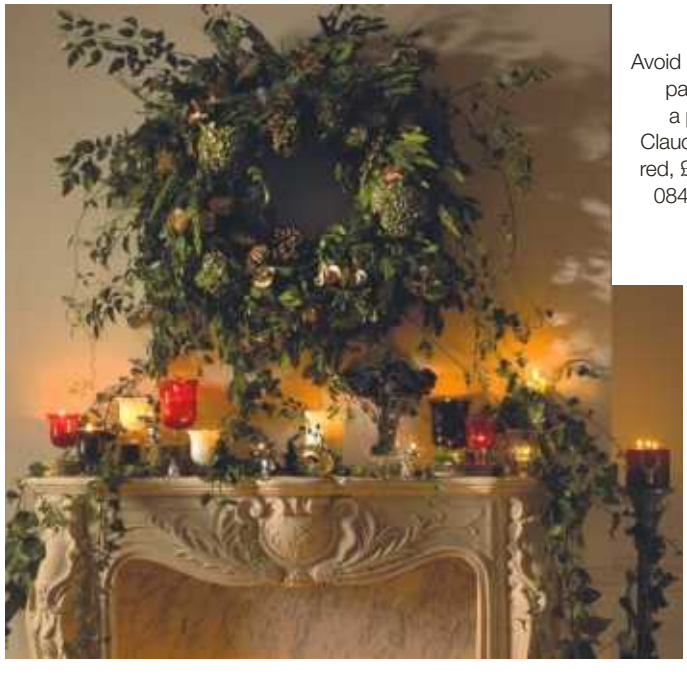
14



▶ HOME FIRES
A real fire is a seasonal treat. Black Coal bucket and cream Kindling Wood bucket, £16.55 each, Roman at Home. 0845 052 5125, www.romanathome.com.

15

DRAMATIC DESIGNS
Make time ahead of Christmas to get creative. Buy a basic wreath and let your inner florist go overboard. Complete a mantelpiece decoration with fragrances from the Kenneth Turner Christmas collection. Scented candles in small stem vases, £42 each; scented candles in large stem vases, £90 each. www.kennethturner.com.



▶ BE SEATED
Avoid last minute-seating panics by investing in a pair of extra chairs. Claudette dining chair in red, £190, The Orchard. 0845 643 0360, www.theorchardhomeandgifts.com.



16

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17

IRRESISTABLY INDULGENT
A white colour scheme is beautifully indulgent, and this bedding will definitely make the guest room feel luxurious. White painted sleigh bed, £999; Penguin double bed set, £40; all Bhs. www.bhs.co.uk.



18

MAKE IT COMFORTABLE
An ultra-comfortable bed is a must for Christmas visitors. The Wrought Iron & Brass Bed Co has introduced a new range of natural luxury pocket-sprung mattresses, from £1,496 for a double mattress. Shown here with the Beatrice bed in cream from £799 for a double. 01485 542516, www.wroughtironandbrassbed.co.uk.

19

PADDED SUPPORT
Spruce up the guest room with a padded headboard and upholstered divan base for a neat and streamlined look, from Button & Sprung. This is the Iris double bedstead with a squared-off headboard with three rows of buttoning; shown here in soft sheen plain linen in Silver, from £675 for a double. Pocket sprung mattresses are from £545. 0333 320 1801, www.buttonandsprung.com.



20



▶ WARMING UP
Aroma Home knitted stag hot water bottle cover with button fastening, £19.99, Cotswold Trading, 01386 853331, www.cotswoldtrading.com.

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ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL

From the cosy studio in the garden of her home, designer Grace Lane of A Threadbear Production gives life to magical creations

'I have a very spread out way of working and the need to be surrounded by things that inspire me, whether it's a magazine, a photograph or a swatch of fabric'



Grace's father made the two slim identical work benches that she can move around, depending on how much floor and table space she needs.







It's about 3pm in the afternoon, and Grace Lane is working on one of her many creations lined up on the desk in the studio at the back of her Lincolnshire home. There's gentle waft of Radio Four about the place and two lanky dogs (Grace and her mother Rachel's rescue dogs, Greyhound Woody and German wire-hair pointer, Demo) loll on the rug waiting with a watchful eye on Grace's miniature thimble to be put down, a sure sign that a walk will be on the cards.

All of the incredible characters Grace makes have that aged feel resembling the look of a family ted or doll that's been loved and used over decades. The base of the characters start from a blank calico body, with the limbs and body machine stitched, while the head and ears are finished by hand. She starts off by collecting fabrics in similar colours, which determines the type of character she's working on, and then she goes on to find charms and accessories to really make it come to life.

A lot of the fabrics and charms used to decorate her work come from friends and family. Her uncle, a textile designer/collector, and father both work with fabric and leather. Her mother has friends who donate pieces of jewellery and there's charity shops where Grace finds scraps of fabrics. 'Even the smallest item of clothing can go a long way when dressing a bear or rabbit,' she says. As quickly as they are finished the creatures are instantly put up on her website, where they are snapped up by enthusiastic collectors.

• Find out more about Grace's creatures and shop online at www.athreadbearproduction.co.uk.



Above and **main picture**
The interior of the studio is forever changing as Grace works on new projects, adding sketches, fabric samples and other imagery to the walls as inspiration strikes her.

Shelving has been made from scaffolding planks that Grace found in a skip



Handmadr crow, £160, A Threadbear Production.

FEATURE SIAN WILLIAMS/NARRATIVES **PHOTOGRAPHY** OLLY ELTES/NARRATIVES
ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY GRACE LANE

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

Grace will be exhibiting at a number of fairs over the Christmas period







You can see these unique characters at Selvedge Winter Fair at Chelsea Old Town Hall in London on 3-4 December, as well as at the Cambridge Christmas fair at Woodgreen on 12-13 December, and at Stamford Christmas fair on 29 November. Work ranges in price from £185 to £250, and commissions are welcome.



Redfields
English leadwork







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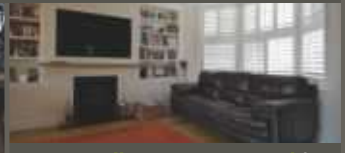
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Focus on...

Front doors

Make sure your door gives a smart first impression with these makeover ideas

Your front door is key to the look of your home and should enhance its overall appearance. For a quick update, give your door a makeover. A lick of paint and some new furniture will transform a tired-looking door and give the entire facade a fresh new look. When choosing a paint colour, consider the whole of the exterior, as it needs to be in keeping with the existing architecture so the look remains balanced. And always use a specific door paint, as this will ensure it will looks smarter for longer. Paint a few different coloured squares on the door and live with them for several weeks to see which you like best, and to get an idea of how they look at different times of the day. Finish off with door furniture that complements the period of the property and the style of the door.

INSTANT UPDATE

If your paintwork is in good condition but the overall look could do with an update then consider a stained-glass window film.

Period stained glass-effect design, prices from £52 per sq m, can be cut to your exact measurements, Purlfrost.

For stockists turn to page 113



1

SUNSHINE YELLOW

Be daring with colour. The striking yellow on this six-panelled door will transform the look of your home.

Door painted in Mister David 47; woodwork in Loft White 222; both in Traditional Oil Gloss, £27 for 1 ltr, The Little Greene Paint Company.

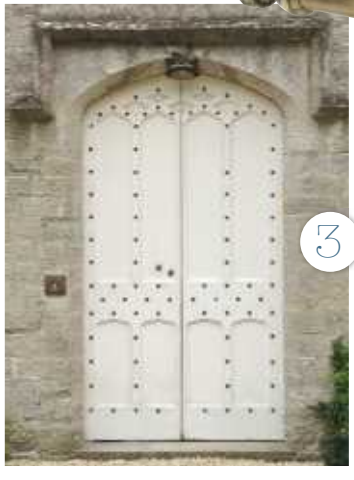


2





Left Fallen Fruits Pheasant coir doormat, £23.50, Cotswold Trading. **Below** Small brass letterplate with fixed pull, £59.50, Willow & Stone.



3

STUD EFFECT

This solid arched door features original studding that stands out perfectly against the cream painted wood. Keep door furniture to a minimum for a clean and simple look.

Wimborne White No 239 Exterior Eggshell, £58 for 2.5 ltrs, Farrow & Ball.

FEATURE SOPHIE WARREN-SMITH

Focus on... Front doors



Left Rabbit and Lion Fabled Fauna door knockers, £38 each, Anthropologie.
Right Coach lantern, available in a range of finishes, £240.50, Jim Lawrence.

'A period door should be sympathetic to the characteristics of the era, while still offering a modern twist to a property's facade'

Kerry Walters, head of design at The London Door Company



4

HEATHER TONES

New for autumn/winter are three rich and earthy colours from Sandtex. Each one will protect your door for up to 10 years and only requires one pot of paint.

Spiced Wine exterior gloss door paint, £17.99 for 750ml, Sandtex.

For stockists turn to page 113



5

SMART CHOICE

This Edwardian-style door has bolection moulding and upper glazed panels with smart polished chrome furniture.

Edwardian five-panel door, £5,000 including fitting, painted as shown with frame and locks, The London Door Company.



6

SOLID OAK

When you want a quality door that is made to last, look no further than a bespoke design in solid oak that is treated with Danish oil to protect the natural look.

Hall House bespoke door, £1,220; and frame featuring a hand-carved motif, £860; both made to order in solid European or English oak, Tudor Oak.



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5 minutes with...

Ashley McDow of Occipinti, creator of hand-painted floral fabric, wallpaper and kitchen textiles





How did you get into what you do?
I found my passion for textile design while I was working at a textile mill in Mumbai, India. With my family back in England, I decided to return home and launch my own luxury interiors brand in 2013, specialising in wallpapers, fabrics and home accessories. I chose to name my brand Occipinti as it was my Sicilian grandmother's maiden name, and means 'painted eyes'.

Have you always been interested in making and designing?
My passion for design started when I was at nursery school. I used to stay at the arts and crafts table, gluing and sticking all sorts of things together, despite playtime being announced… They couldn't drag me away!

What was the first piece you ever made?
I have made many pieces, but the most important designs to me are those that make up The British Empire collection. This was my first collection for Occipinti. It is such a wonderful feeling when someone buys your design, as it means they like it enough to look at it every day.

What inspires your designs?
I am inspired by a traditional English garden. Growing up in the countryside, I was surrounded by flowers. My grandparents are keen gardeners and the rest of the family, rain or shine, love to potter around creating beautiful landscapes. The plants in my garden tend to have a rather short lifespan, so I stick to recreating them on paper.

Explain the making process to us?
I spend a lot of time outside in parks and gardens. I also visit galleries, museums and shops to get a feel for trends. I take all my inspiration, sit in my Walthamstow-based studio painting and drawing until I have a stockpile of imagery to work with, then I fit the paintings together. This then gets manipulated on the computer to create a perfect repeat pattern ready for digital printing.

How did your design collaborations with Sofa.com and Swoon Editions come about?
Sofa.com was looking for something bright and colourful to mark the end of the recession. Swoon Editions was searching for innovative textile designers with a passion for creating luxury products. Artisans make all of Swoon Editions' products. Having worked in a similar environment with skilled craftsmanship in India, it felt like a perfect marriage for Occipinti.

What's next for your business?
I really enjoy working as a team, so I will be seeking out more collaborations with other people and brands. I have just launched a range of kitchen textiles that is available now, and I am in the midst of developing a ceramics range. My brand is also being noticed further afield with international stockists confirmed in the US, Australia and Japan. It is an exciting time for Occipinti.





Clockwise from left Lille armchair featuring Occipinti fabric, £449, www.swooneditions.com; Ashley against a backdrop of Occipinti Appledorn Tulip wallaper, £88 per roll; Alderney armchair featuring Occipinti fabric, £635, www.sofa.com; Occipinti Wisteria apron, £38.

You can shop online for fabric, wallpaper, cushions and kitchen textiles by Occipinti at www.occipinti.com

GENTLE CURVES

Team black tiles with white walls and sanitaryware for an up-to-date interpretation of classic Art Deco style. The simple styling of the double-ended tub is echoed in the oval Toulouse wash basin, £235, both by Bauhaus (www.bauhaus-bathrooms.co.uk, and offset with Belgravia nickel taps by Crosswater – the silky-smooth, reflective surface makes it ideal for achieving a high-end look in traditional style. Prices from £95. 0345 873 8840, www.crosswater.co.uk.



IN THE BATHROOM

A beautiful bathroom will be a source of calm and serenity for long and lazy soaks in the tub…

Keeping warm

A towel rail is a must if you want to step out of the bath or shower into a warm towel, and a radiator and towel rail combined is a practical choice for a small bathroom or cloakroom. This is the Traditional Towel Rail, with a cast-iron body and steel rail, £564.48, from The Radiator Centre. 01727 840344, www.theradiatorcentre.com.





Tiles with style

For vinyl tiled flooring with serious style credentials, consider the Signature range, £42.95 per sq m, from Harvey Maria. Designed by Dee Hardwicke, the Lattice motif comes in a range of colours, including Cherry Red and Hay Field (both pictured), and can be used with underfloor heating. 0845 680 1231, www.harveymaria.co.uk.

Tip If your bathroom is on the small side but you're keen to use patterned floor tiles, keep walls plain, accessories to a minimum and choose a bold design in a light shade.

Traditional update

The Jade range by Hudson Reed is a good value, affordable way to give a fresh look to the bathroom. The cross-head brassware is available as a bath-shower mixer, £200 as shown, plus basin taps, bath taps and a mono-bloc basin mixer. 01282 418000, www.hudsonreed.co.uk.



UP AGAINST THE WALL

The Saturn bath, £1,299, from Alternative Bathrooms is made from Lucite, an acrylic material with a glossy sheen that compares magnificently to traditional enamel. It's a good alternative to a freestanding model as it has luxurious rounded curves, but it can be fitted against a wall. 020 3375 9002, www.alternativebathrooms.com.

3 OF THE BEST BATHROOM LUXURIES

Spruce up the bathroom with some luxuries



For stockists turn to page 113

Moulin candelabra, 35 (h) x 15.5cm (dia), in resin and pewter, £79.50, Within.



Flowers of Liberty Wiltshire Roberts Revival DAB/FM radio, £225, Liberty.



Ralph zig-zag patterned hooded robe, £196, from the Missoni Home range at Amara.

FEATURE LINDA PARKER

CREATE A COSY HOME WITH
blinds, curtains and shutters

With the nights drawing in and the colder weather fast approaching, there couldn't be a better time to update the look of your home - and where better to start then with your windows? Chosen carefully, window dressings can be an energy-efficient solution, helping to reduce heat loss and protecting against unwanted draughts.







2. Lovely layers

Layering blinds with curtains not only looks stunning, it also helps prevent draughts and chills. For a sumptuous look pair a Roman blind with floor-length curtains, and for added protection and warmth choose a thermal lining.



1. Keep in the heat

Heat loss through your windows can be reduced by as much as 51%* with Thermashade™ blinds. The clever honeycomb air pockets lock in the heat, keeping the warmth in the room – and they look great too.

*English Heritage





Stylist Tip

Patterns & textures inspired by nature are perfect for winter. Team with rich plains for a cosy look.







3. Do energy-saving in style

For statement style with added insulation, choose shutters. Not only are they perfect for combatting draughts, they create a striking look at your windows. Plus, they're available in virtually any shade so you can either coordinate or contrast with your existing decor.

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WIN! *A luxury stay* with LateRooms.com

To celebrate the release of *Pan*, one lucky reader and a guest will enjoy an overnight stay with dinner at the magical Bovey Castle in Devon

LateRooms.com, in conjunction with iFlorist, are giving one reader and a guest the chance to win a luxurious trip to Bovey Castle to celebrate the cinematic release of the hit movie *Pan*, in cinemas 16 October. Bovey Castle is a country estate situated in the heart of Dartmoor National Park in Devon. Our lucky prize winner will check in to a Classic double room, and have time to enjoy the facilities, including an 18-hole golf course (green fees applicable) and the indulgent Elan Spa, before sitting down to a three-course dinner in the Great Western restaurant. A full English breakfast the next morning is also included. The winner will take home with them a beautiful *Pan*-themed bouquet of flowers from iFlorist and receive a pair of cinema tickets to see the film.

• Visit www.iflorist.co.uk to view the full range of exclusive bouquets.



Main picture Our prize winner will be checking in to a Classic room at Bovey Castle. **Above** The lucky winner will also receive a beautiful hand-tied bouquet of flowers.

PAN

From director Joe Wright (*Atonement*; *Pride & Prejudice*) comes *Pan*, an adventure about the beginnings of the beloved characters created by JM Barrie. Peter (Levi Miller) is a 12-year-old boy with an irrepressible rebellious streak, but in the bleak London orphanage where he has lived his whole life those qualities do not exactly fly. Then one incredible night, Peter is whisked off to a fantastical world of pirates, warriors and fairies called Neverland. There, he finds amazing adventures and discovers his true destiny to become the hero who will forever be known as Peter Pan.

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ENTER ONLINE BY VISITING: www.periodhomesandinteriors.com Closing date: 31 December 2015

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WIN! *A luxury break*

You and a guest could be experiencing a relaxing break at The Feversham Arms Hotel & Spa in Yorkshire, courtesy of Pride of Britain Hotels

The Feversham Arms Hotel & Verbena Spa is a secluded luxury retreat, nestled in the picturesque market town of Helmsley in North Yorkshire. Located on the banks of the River Rye, and surrounded by the North York Moors National Park, it's the perfect hideaway.

The hotel boasts a Mediterranean terrace and outdoor pool, welcoming lounges, open fires and a snug to make guests feel welcome all year round. All 33 bedrooms are tastefully designed with many boasting log-burning stoves, balconies and terraces.

Dining at the Feversham Arms is a real experience, with three menus to choose from. The signature Tasting Menu includes six courses of individual and flavoursome dishes – designed to be enjoyed at leisure. The Seasonal Market Menu changes regularly and uses the best local produce. Head Chef Norman Mackenzie is a keen forager, and this menu reflects what has been found in the countryside surrounding the hotel on any given day. The à la carte menu gives guests the freedom to choose from a wide selection of dishes.

The Verbena Spa relaxation lounge is defined by sofas you sink into and views across the south-facing terrace garden. The spa houses six single treatment rooms and one couples' room in which guests can experience a tandem therapy. The spa also has an extensive Heat Experience including an aromatherapy room, salt inhalation chamber, saunarium, monsoon shower and ice fountain. All together the Feversham Arms Hotel & Verbena Spa provides a haven in which to retreat from the pressures of life and to take some time to indulge your body and relax your mind.

The prize will include overnight accommodation for two adults in a Luxury Spa or Poolside Suite, a cream tea and bottle of Pol Roger Champagne on arrival plus a three-course dinner.

Find out more about hotels in the Pride of Britain group at www.prideofbritainhotels.com or call 0800 0893929 to order your free hotel directory.

ENTER ONLINE BY VISITING: www.periodhomesandinteriors.com Closing date: 31 December 2015

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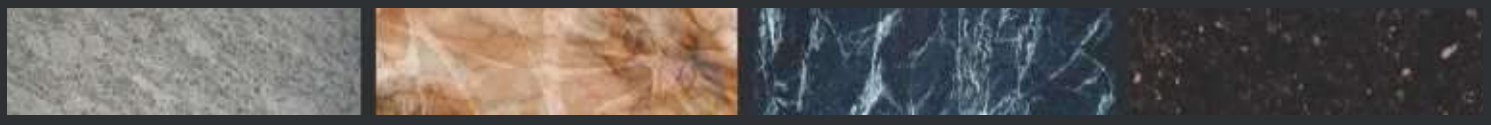
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MASTERCLASS IN...

RENOVATING

A LISTED PROPERTY

If you own a listed property, chances are that at some point you will renovate or undertake work on it. However big or small this might be, there will be a lot of detail and research that goes into the project. These tips will put you on the right track



TAKE PHOTOS – AND LOTS OF THEM!

It sounds obvious, but you would be amazed at how many people forget to. Taking pictures at every stage of the project, particularly before you start work, is one of the most useful ways to document it. Looking back at the photographs allows you to see how far the project has progressed. Images can also be taken along to meetings with conservation officers, architects and other professionals involved in the project. Should you wish to sell the house in future, a catalogue of images will become part of the property's history and can be passed on for the next custodian to enjoy.

ASK YOUR NEIGHBOURS

As well as sharing helpful tips on their own experiences of local tradesman, they may also have some useful information they can pass on about local historians, architects and dealing with the conservation officer.

CALCULATE THE COSTS

One of the most common issues with any property project is unplanned costs, so make sure you incorporate a generous contingency. Budgeting is essential, as costs can spiral. If you overspend in one area you'll need to cut back elsewhere. When putting together a budget, source at least three quotes for the work.

Did you know

92% of all listed buildings are grade II listed (of special historic or architectural interest), while 38% are used as domestic dwellings*.



As the owner of a listed building, you have responsibility for taking care of its upkeep.

CHOOSE SUPPLIERS CAREFULLY

Finding trusted, reputable suppliers of traditional products and methods suitable for your home's needs is essential to a successful renovation or conversion. Word or mouth can be invaluable. Suppliers who have provided a great service may be needed again in the future, so keep a record of who contributed to the work, the costs involved and their contact details. Another building owner with similar requirements may also need their services, and recommending good suppliers online through honest reviews and feedback will help with their own research.





To alter or extend a listed building you must apply for Listed Building Consent from your local council.

SET A TIMESCALE

At the beginning of the project you will have a timescale set out for the completion of the works. In order to stay on track, document how long each part of the project takes and the reasons for any delays. It will be easier to re-estimate a finish date and make up for time.



DISCOVER THE HISTORY OF YOUR HOME

Discovering the antiquity of your home is growing in popularity. After all, investing in a listed home means buying into its past, stories and legacy. It can also provide inspiration for your renovation. There are great resources and help available for researching your property's past at the Listed Property Owners Club Suppliers Directory (www.lpoc.co.uk/specialist-directory) or visit www.historicengland.org.uk.

KEEP A DIARY

Keeping a diary of your experience is a great way to document your project, and an outlet for your achievements, frustrations and progress. A diary also allows you to have an accurate record of when certain parts of the project took place. Should the work go on for a number of years this can be a useful referencing guide to refer to. A diary also serves as a way of documenting the memories of your experience to have something to look back at when the project is over. Many owners now choose to keep an online diary via a blog or website, which enables their experiences to be shared.

• The Listed Property Owners Club is Britain's only advice service dedicated to helping owners of listed buildings. It's a membership organisation with a particularly personal advice service. To find out more visit www.lpoc.co.uk or call 01795 844939.

BE PREPARED

Should any legal issues concerning your project arise, having detailed records of all aspects of the work will be a great help. A log of your contact with the local conservation officer will be especially important, should the permission for work undertaken come into question.

The Listed Property Show 2016

Olympia London 20-21 February & HIC Harrogate 12-13 March

If you are maintaining, altering or renovating a listed home, The Listed Property Show is not to be missed. You will find independent conservation officers, leading experts giving advice on plans to alter your home, architects, suppliers of quality products for period homes, practical demonstrations and a full interactive lecture programme. For your free ticket visit www.lpoc.co.uk/property-show or call 01795 844939.

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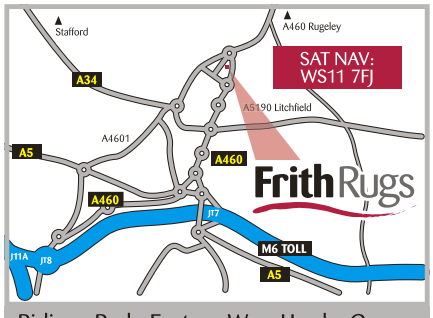
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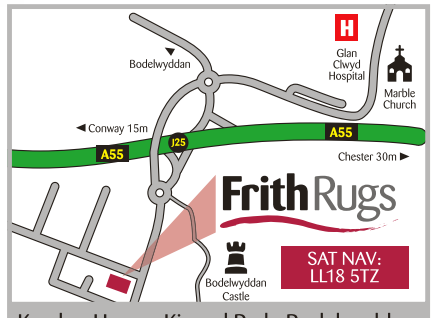
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PH&I *picks...* Top 20 *Dream homes*

We've found properties for sale that are brimming with period details and character

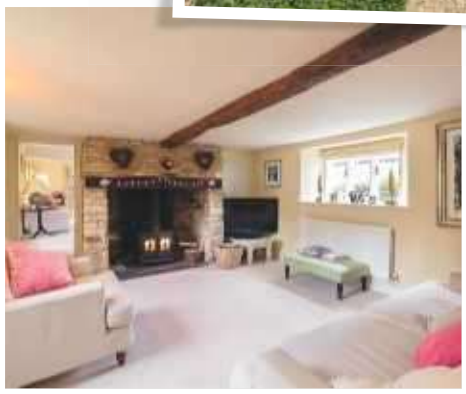
01 STEEPLE ASTON, OXFORDSHIRE
PRICE: £900,000

PROPERTY OF THE MONTH



Grade II-listed Tangley Cottage is a light and spacious village house. Set in a north Oxfordshire conservation area, around 14 miles from Oxford, the stone cottage retains many original features, including exposed beams and working fireplaces. There are four reception rooms, including a drawing room, double-height gallery room with exposed woodwork and a large kitchen/breakfast room that's the heart of the home. On the first floor is the master bedroom with exposed stone fireplace and internal feature window that overlooks the gallery. Three further double bedrooms and two family bathrooms are on this floor, and there's a large guest suite on the second floor. Approached via a shared gravelled driveway, a set of electric gates offer privacy and open on to an enclosed parking area with stone steps leading down to a terrace area. At the rear is a walled garden with lawn and mature trees. Numerous public footpaths, including the Cherwell Valley South Walk are accessible from the village. Strutt & Parker, 01865 366644, www.struttandparker.com.





This stone cottage retains many original features, including exposed beams and working fireplaces





02 STAPLECROSS, EAST SUSSEX
PRICE: £750,000

Situated between the villages of Staplecross and Bodiam, Hollow Wall Oast is a twin-roundel oast house with amazing countryside views. Features include a generous living room with wood burner and a roundel dining room and kitchen. The property has exposed timbers throughout and upstairs there's an en-suite master bedroom, three further bedrooms and a family bathroom. There's also a detached garage with home office and a stable block in need of renovation. Freeman Forman, 01892 615757, www.freemanforman.co.uk.



FEATURE ANDREA MANLEY. **PLEASE NOTE** PRICES AND PROPERTY AVAILABILITY ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. VISIT THE ESTATE AGENT'S WEBSITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS.







Did you know?...

2.5 million* homeowners have never switched their energy supplier, with 27% thinking it's too much hassle to change.







03 TROUTBECK, CUMBRIA
PRICE: £550,000

Situated within the Lake District National Park, Lisco is a traditional double-fronted farmhouse that's been run as a B&B, but would make an equally lovely family home. Comprising four bedrooms, two of which are en suite, three reception rooms and a kitchen with solid fuel Rayburn, the property has mature gardens, paddocks and a large barn with renovation potential. Savills incorporating Smiths Gore, 01228 546400, www.savills-smithsgore.co.uk.

04 WHETHERSFIELD, ESSEX
PRICE: £449,955

Elm Cottage is a traditional property with a modern, bright exterior. Both reception rooms have wood-burning stoves and the kitchen/breakfast room has attractive Shaker-style units and a wooden floor. The basement is accessed from the sitting room and can be used as a games room, study or fourth bedroom. Upstairs the en-suite master bedroom has a cast-iron fireplace and the two remaining bedrooms share a Jack and Jill shower room. David Burr, 01787 463404, www.davidburr.co.uk.

05 BANGOR ON DEE, WREXHAM
PRICE: £775,000

Althrey Hall, a Grade II-listed Tudor manor house, is one of the last surviving aisle-truss halls of Wales. On the ground floor is an impressive great hall with open fireplace and minstrel gallery. There are two further receptions, a kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, library and cellar. On the upper floors are five bedrooms, two of which are en suite, a family bathroom plus a chapel. Surrounded by farmland there are splendid far-reaching views. Strutt & Parker, 01244 354880, www.struttandparker.com.

06 RINSEY ASHTON, CORNWALL
PRICE: £550,000+

Rinsey Farmhouse is situated in a coastal village just a few minutes from the beach. The four-bedroom, three-reception room property offers outstanding views from most of the main rooms and the attached two-bedroom annexe can be used as a holiday let or additional family accommodation. The sitting room has an open fireplace and the dining/family room has an Aga. Next to the kitchen is a store room that could be converted into a reception room, subject to planning permission. Country & Waterside, 01872 490029, www.countryandwaterside.co.uk.

07 MURTHLY, PERTHSHIRE
PRICE: £390,000+

Built in 1897 as the doctor's house for Druids Park, Eastfield is a detached Victorian villa with an abundance of period details. The dual-aspect sitting room and dining room have ornate cornicing, windows with working shutters and timber flooring. The bespoke kitchen/diner is well designed and has a lovely window seat overlooking the gardens. Upstairs there are five bedrooms and a bathroom. CKD Galbraith, 01738 451111, www.ckdgalbraith.co.uk.

08 SCAWBY, LINCOLNSHIRE
PRICE: £450,000

Formerly the village school, this property is now a Grade II-listed family home full of character. Downstairs a former classroom with wall-mounted scholarship boards has been converted into a double-height studio, and there's also a lounge, dining room, kitchen, breakfast room and study on this floor. Upstairs comprises four bedrooms and a family bathroom. Fine & Country, 01472 867880, www.fineandcountry.com.

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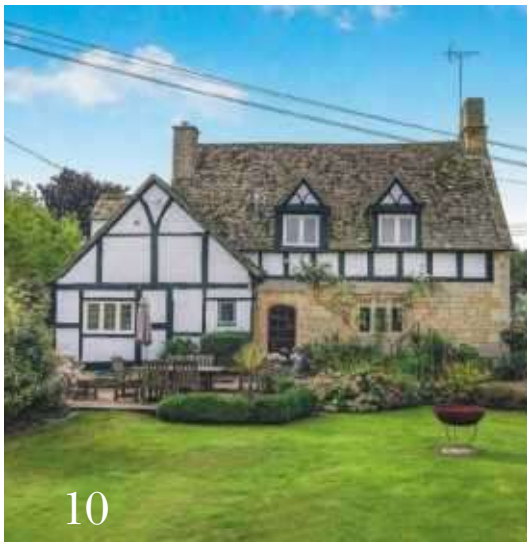
This Grade II-listed Tudor manor house is one of the last surviving aisle-truss halls of Wales

Althrey Hall, property 5













09 WARFLEET, DEVON
PRICE: £1,600,000

Originally the ballroom and billiard room to neighbouring Warfleet House, and dating from the 19th century, Warfleet Lodge is Grade II listed. Designed in the Tudor Gothic style, the entrance hall has wood panelling and a full-height stained-glass window, while the drawing room boasts carved beams and an impressive inglenook fireplace. Arranged over two floors, there are four en-suite bedrooms, a kitchen/breakfast room, study and private parking. Marchand Petit, 01803 839190, www.marchandpetit.co.uk.

10 ALSTONE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE
PRICE: £800,000

Set on the edge of the Cotswolds, Upper Farm has a village location and comprises a main house and a self-contained cottage annexe. The house has an entrance hall, sitting room with feature fireplace, two further reception rooms, kitchen with pale blue cabinetry, separate utility, three double bedrooms and a family bathroom. The one-bedroom annexe has a living area, kitchenette and wet room. RA Bennett & Partners, 01242 584585, www.rabennett.co.uk.

11 NORTH LUFFENHAM, RUTLAND
PRICE: £695,000

If you hanker after the country life then Bede House Farm may be for you. The Grade II-listed 15th-century farmhouse has five reception rooms and original features including inglenook fireplaces, deep windowsills and doors. The modern country-style kitchen has a pantry with original bread oven and a striking spiral staircase leads to one of the bedrooms. The remaining four bedrooms are accessed via the property's main staircase, and there's also a master en suite plus a bathroom and shower room. Savills incorporating Smiths Gore, 01780 484696, www.savills-smithsgore.co.uk.

The house was originally the ballroom and billiard room to neighbouring Warfleet House

Warfleet Lodge, Property 9

12 BRAMFORD, SUFFOLK
PRICE: £595,000

This meticulously maintained Grade II-listed cottage boasts immense character and period detail. Traditionally decorated and with beams throughout, the kitchen has a vaulted ceiling and hand-crafted units. The dining hall has a cast-iron woodburner and there's a sitting room with inglenook fireplace and a snug. Upstairs there are four bedrooms and a bathroom. The property is set in landscaped grounds of nearly an acre with a fruit orchard, Victorian-style glasshouse and double garage/workshop. Fenn Wright, 01472 272700, www.fennwright.co.uk.

13 HOYLAKE, WIRRAL
PRICE: £945,000

This Victorian detached family home has views over the Royal Liverpool golf course and boasts plenty of space for family living. The impressive drawing room, dining room, family room and kitchen are on the ground floor while the en-suite master and guest bedrooms, bathroom, laundry room, shower room, games room and four double bedrooms are spread across the upper floors. The basement has five additional rooms. Karl Tatler, 0151 625 9300, www.karltatler.com.

14 BUCKNELL, SHROPSHIRE
PRICE: £600,000

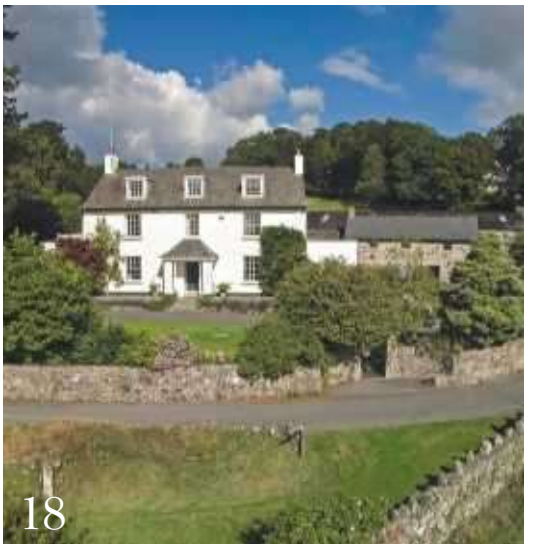
Postcard-pretty, Grade II-listed Weir Cottage has a black and white timber frame, thatched roof and a classic country garden with a stream and summerhouse. The property has two reception rooms, a kitchen/diner, utility room and downstairs bathroom, and comes with planning permission to extend the ground-floor dining room into a larger reception room and create a first-floor bedroom with en suite. Upstairs there are two bedrooms and a WC. Strutt & Parker, 01584 873711, www.struttandparker.com.













15 KNARESBOROUGH, NORTH YORKSHIRE PRICE: £499,950

No 3 Bridge Close enjoys picturesque river views with gardens leading down to a landing stage on the river. Set over four floors, the spacious townhouse has a split-level open-plan entertaining area. There's also a modern kitchen, garden room, conservatory, cloakroom and utility. The first and second floors comprise four bedrooms, including a master en suite with balcony, and a family shower room. Dacre, Son & Hartley, 01423 864126, www.dacres.co.uk.

16 EPPING, ESSEX PRICE: £775,000

This Grade II-listed semi-detached cottage has a charming weather-boarded exterior and an interior full of character. Set over three floors, the dining room has a vaulted ceiling, high windows and minstrel gallery accessed via a spiral staircase. There are three further reception rooms, a Shaker-style kitchen and a ground-floor shower room. Upstairs comprises two bathrooms and three double bedrooms, all with garden views. A staircase in bedroom two gives access to a fourth bedroom. Hetheringtons, 01992 830244, www.hetheringtons.co.uk.

17 ESSENDON, HERTFORDSHIRE PRICE: £1,400,000

Well Cottage overlooks fields and woodland yet is within easy reach of London. The Victorian property has three reception rooms, including a large sitting/dining room, a kitchen/breakfast room, four bedrooms and two bathrooms. Outside is a fantastic summer house with its own patio, which makes a great entertaining space, beautiful gardens and a generous rear drive with garage. Fine & Country, 01707 622222, www.fineandcountry.com.

18 LUSTLEIGH, DEVON PRICE: £1,535,000

Rudge is a Grade II-listed Georgian home on the edge of one of Dartmoor's most picturesque villages. The elegant main reception rooms have exposed wood floors and decorative cornicing, and there's a light-filled conservatory and kitchen/breakfast room with oil-fired Aga. The upper floors comprise six bedrooms, two of which are en suite, two bathrooms and an office. The house has a self-contained annexe converted from the former coach house, and a whole host of outbuildings. Jackson-Stops & Staff, 01392 214222, www.jackson-stops.co.uk.

19 TOPCROFT, NORFOLK PRICE: £475,000

Little Manor House is a rural gem nestled in gardens of around an acre. The property has been beautifully refurbished and mixes period details with modern touches. There are three reception rooms on the ground floor and two en-suite bedrooms on the first floor. There's also a further downstairs shower room, kitchen/diner with Arts and Crafts fireplace, utility room and an outbuilding containing a workshop and office. Hunters, 01986 948044, www.hunters.com.

20 LODSWORTH, WEST SUSSEX PRICE: £495,000

Hazel Cottage has been restored to create a perfect marriage of old and new. The open-plan kitchen, sitting and dining room with glazed roof at one end has a large wood-burning stove and reclaimed pine flooring. The kitchen has an oil-fired range cooker for heating and hot water and there's a utility area in the basement. Upstairs are two bedrooms and a bathroom and a spiral staircase leading to a further bedroom and bathroom. The cottage also has a self-contained annexe. Savills incorporating Smiths Gore, 01798 343111, www.savills-smithsgore.co.uk.

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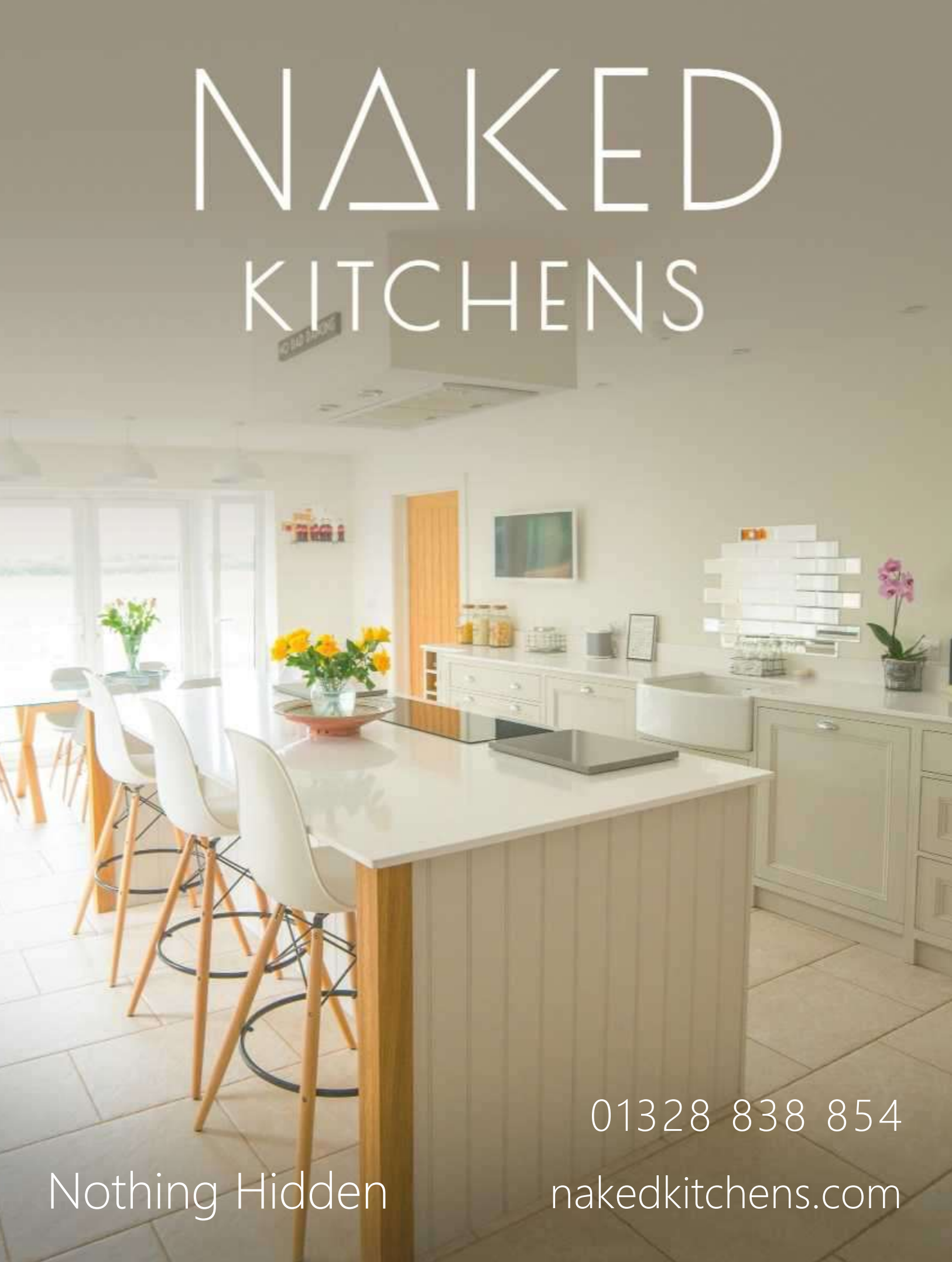
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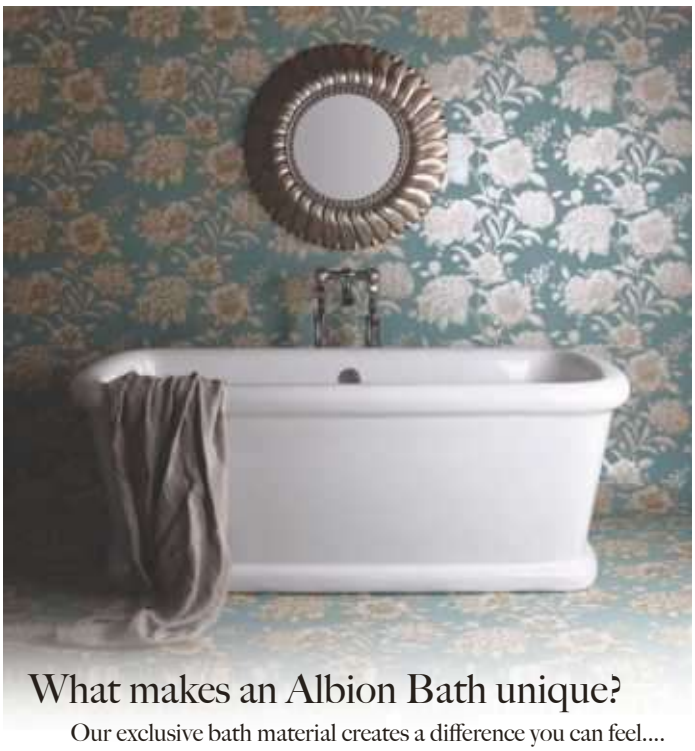
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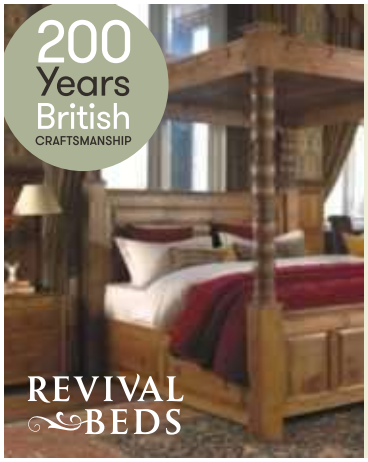
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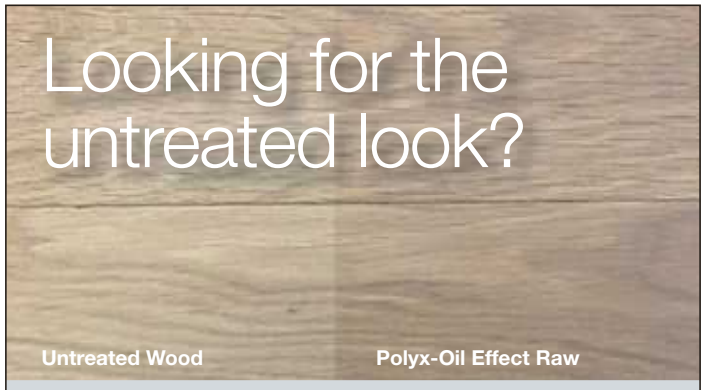
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DECEMBER 2015

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Mid-Century gilt wheatsheaf coffee table, £495, Decorative Antiques UK.



Wooden hanging tree decorations, £5 each, Holsa Bee.



Taratala salad servers, £15.20, Lizard Orchid.



Grey linen Bocciolo hand-printed napkin, £13, Allóra.



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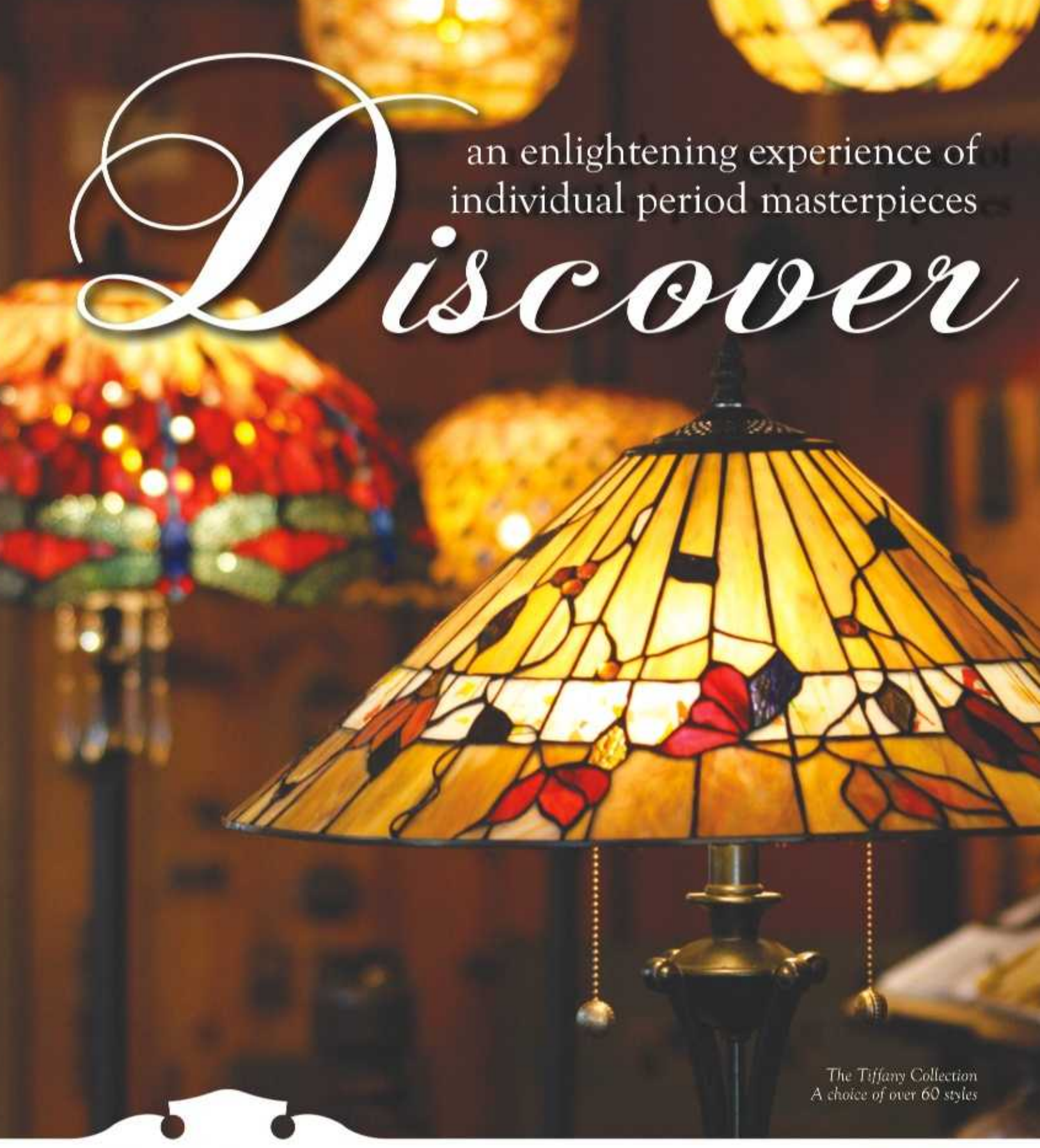


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